

CENTRAL COLLEGE

1858 - 1958



CENTENARY SOUVENIR

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BANGALORE :

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SRI MUMMADI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, *His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore* —>



SRI CHAMARAJENDRA WADIYAR BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., *His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore* →





SRI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.

*His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and
Chancellor, University of Mysore*



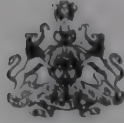
SRI KANTIRAVA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR. G.C.I.E.

*His Highness the Yuvaraja of Mysore
and Pro-Chancellor, University of Mysore*



SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.

*Governor of Mysore
and Chancellor of the University of Mysore*



The Palace,
Mysore,

November 2, 1958.

I send my sincere felicitations and good wishes to the Central College, Bangalore, on the occasion of the celebration of its Centenary.

The Central College which began its historic career as the Bangalore High School in January 1858 with a couple of hundred students, has grown today into one of the premier Science Colleges in India with about 2400 students on its rolls. During the one hundred years of its existence the Central College has been very well served indeed by its Principals, Professors and other members of the staff. No greater testimony to the quality of the service rendered by a College is needed than its alumni, and the Central College is in the proud position of being able to count among its alumni, some of the most eminent and greatest sons of India.

The celebration of the Central College Centenary is an occasion for rejoicing, not only among its Old Boys, but among the People of the State. It is also an occasion to recall, with a thankful heart, the invaluable services rendered by pioneers like the Reverend J. Garret and Mr Rice, and by their stalwart successors like Mr Cook and Mr Tait. It is a fortunate circumstance that the academic traditions and standards built up by these great men have been maintained in our own days by equally worthy and eminent successors in charge of this great institution.

I wish the Central College, Bangalore, success, prosperity and a long career of usefulness.

Jaya Chamarajendra Wodeyar
Maharaja of Mysore.

DR. K. V. PUTTAPPA, M.A., D.Litt.,
Vice-Chancellor.

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

MYSORE,
Dated 10th December 1958.

It gives me great pleasure to associate myself with this Souvenir which is being published in connection with the Centenary of Central College, Bangalore.

Central College is one of the oldest and largest educational institutions in our State. It has especially distinguished itself as a haven of scientific studies and has been for long the chief College of Science in our University.

But this Premier Science College has not neglected the humanities. In fact the name of Central College became famous throughout Karnataka on account of its activities in starting the renaissance of Kannada language and literature. Apart from the teaching of languages as part of the curriculum of studies, the College has rendered yeoman service to the cause of Kannada literature through its Karnataka Sangha which was established nearly forty years ago. Ever since its inception, the usefulness and the range of the activities of the Sangha have been increasing steadily, thanks to the selfless and untiring devotion to it of men like Prof. Bellave Venkatanarayanappa, Prof. T. S. Venkannaiah and Prof. A. R. Krishna Sastry. It was here that the *Prabuddha Karnataka* was born and nourished till it was taken over by the University.

I earnestly hope that the Central College will continue the work of enriching the regional language by adding more and more books on Science to it so that knowledge of Science may go to the door of the common man to create a rationalistic and scientific outlook which is a fundamental necessity for the progress of the nation.

Consequent upon the various programmes of development sponsored by the University Grants Commission, the College is sure to become more and more important. I wish the College the brightest possible future.

K. V. PUTTAPPA,
Vice-Chancellor.

FOREWORD

I have been asked to write a Foreword to the Souvenir which the Centenary Celebrations Committee of the Central College, Bangalore, propose to publish on the appropriate date. I am informed that the request came to me because I was the oldest student alive and my life has been almost co-eval with that of the College.

I joined the Central College in 1875 when it was an affiliated institution of the University of Madras and passed the B.A. degree examination of the Madras University in 1880. Mr. Charles Waters who for fifteen years held the office of Principal was particularly kind to me on account of the high place I took up in the B.A. degree examination.

The Central College continued to be affiliated to the Madras University for a considerable period after I left it. It was only in 1916 in order to ensure rapid progress of education of its subjects the Mysore State considered it imperative to have a University of its own instead of being dependent on the educational resources of its neighbour. His Highness the late Maharaja Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur also strongly supported the idea.

One of the Principals of the Central College Mr. J. G. Tait who succeeded Mr. Cook in 1908 was a good professor but being a member of the Syndicate of the Madras University was unwilling to accept the proposed secession.

The question of separation was discussed for several months and on one occasion the leaders of both States met at a meeting at Ootacamund which was presided over by the Governor of Madras.

When the separation was decided on, the Madras University refused to allow Mysore students to appear for corresponding higher examinations of that University. But the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University promptly came to the rescue and agreed to supply what was wanting. After this, all difficulties for establishing a separate University were removed.

In spite of the various difficulties that confront us in the promotion of higher education in our country, it is gratifying to note that the Central College has completed one hundred years of distinguished service to the State of Mysore. We may well feel proud that the first Indian Governor-General and first Auditor-General of free and independent India were both alumni of the Central College. This institution during its hundred years of existence has produced a large number of able and accomplished statesmen, administrators, businessmen, scientists, engineers, industrialists, lawyers, doctors and professors who have subsequently found honourable occupations in Mysore State as well as in other parts of India.

The growth of the Central College during the century of its existence has been phenomenal. The remarkable thing about the College has been its adaptability for the changing needs of the country and for supplying subjects of practical value. During recent years when the demand for higher scientific training and instruction has increased enormously and when the numbers seeking admission were

unmanageable in spite of the establishment of new Colleges, the Central College has unfailingly risen to the occasion and gone to the rescue. Its introduction and expansion in the field of post-graduate instruction during the last few decades has been really noteworthy.

Now with the advent of independence, India expects her Universities and Colleges to undertake the responsibility of producing trained personnel and leaders who could help the country in achieving self-sufficiency in the matter of food production, defence equipment and the like industries. A new era may therefore be said to have started in our Country for material developments and practical pursuits in the realization of which our Colleges have to play an important part.

The Central College, an integral part of and an important constituent College of the University of Mysore has a great responsibility of not merely maintaining the high and noble traditions of the past, but of developing them further to attain greater distinction. The public have to share this great responsibility by their moral and material support to the University. I earnestly appeal to all Mysoreans to help this institution so that its utility and efficiency may keep pace with the times.

The Central College has done great service for the spread of education and enlightenment in the Mysore State till now and we are all devotedly attached to the institution and it is our heartfelt prayer that it might grow into a great and popular centre of learning in South India.

BANGALORE,

11th November 1958.

M. VISVESVARAYA.

EDITORIAL

From 1858 to 1958 the history of Central College spans an eventful century. It made a modest beginning as the Central High School in 1858. Though this institution began to function soon after as a College from the year 1864, it got its present name, Central College, only in 1875. The Diamond Jubilee of the Central College was celebrated sixty years after this date, in 1935.

Soon after the Central College Day Celebrations of 1957 many old boys of the College suggested that the Centenary of the Institution should be celebrated in 1958, *one hundred years* after its birth as a High School. Precedents were quoted such as the Centenary Celebrations of Presidency College, Madras, and Maharaja's College, Mysore. The matter was placed before the Central College Old Boys' Association and the Managing Committee of the Association finally decided to celebrate the Centenary of the Central College in 1958.

It was also decided to publish a Souvenir presenting the many facets of life in Central College during the hundred years 1858-1958. The Souvenir contains the history of the College and its various Departments in addition to details regarding extra-curricular activities. Many distinguished Old Boys have pleasant and interesting

reminiscences of their student days and they have been published in this Souvenir. The numerous photographs in this volume make it attractive and informative.

The Managing Committee of the C. C. O. B. A. felt that this great event should be commemorated in a fitting manner by the construction of a building. At present there are nearly 2,400 students in the Central College and it is not possible to hold a meeting of all the students and staff because there is no Assembly Hall spacious enough to accommodate this number anywhere in this City. Bangalore also is developing and expanding like Central College in size and importance and the want of a spacious auditorium for conducting public, national and international conferences is keenly felt. Sir K. P. Puttannachetty Town Hall, the largest in Bangalore, can accommodate only about 1,100. The Central College Library is poorly housed in an ancient and dark hall, where even 20 students cannot do any reading or research work. This is a serious handicap in a great institution.

Considering all these it was decided to mark the Central College Centenary Celebration by the construction of a Commemoration Building which would have an auditorium for about 2,500 persons and spacious accommodation for the library. The plans of the building are published in this Souvenir and the estimated cost of the building will be about 15 lakhs. Very liberal grants are expected from the Government of Mysore, the University Grants Commission and the University of Mysore. The new Building will be constructed very near the present College, either in the open space in front of the Central College or just behind the Central College in the space which will be made available by the shifting of the Central Jail. Efforts are being made to get one of these sites.

We appeal to all the Alumni of the College to contribute liberally to this noble cause—the Construction of a Commemoration Building.

We express our thanks to His Highness Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., Chancellor of the University and Governor of Mysore for his gracious message which adorns this volume. We thank *Bharatarathna* Sri M. Visvesvaraya, the oldest of our Old Boys for his Foreword and *Bharatarathna* Sri C. Rajagopalachari and Sri Navarathna Rama Rao and the other distinguished old boys for sending us their Reminiscences. Our thanks are due also to *Padmabhushana* Dr. K. V. Puttappa, Vice-Chancellor of the University, for his kind message. We are thankful to the Government of Mysore for permitting the Government Press to undertake the huge task of printing this souvenir and the authorities and staff of the Government Press, Bangalore, for their hearty co-operation in printing this attractive Souvenir at such short notice.

We thank all others who have helped us in this endeavour.

CENTRAL COLLEGE,
BANGALORE,
13th December 1958.

S. B. BONDADE,
Chairman, Souvenir Committee,
Central College Centenary Celebrations.

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MY LIFE IN CENTRAL COLLEGE
Sri C. V. Vishveshwara

CENTRAL COLLEGE—SOME VIEWS



CENTRAL COLLEGE—SOME VIEWS



HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN MYSORE

IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE ON AN OCCASION like the Centenary of the Central College to give an account of the growth of education in Mysore State rather than trace the history of Mysore in general.

The Mysore State

Mysore was a compact little area until two years ago with an area of about 29,000 sq. miles and a population of about 9 millions. After the reorganisation of States on 1st November 1956, into 14 States and 6 Centrally Administered Territories, the Mysore State has an area of 74,861 square miles and a population of 19,401,193, according to the Census of 1951. The population must be considerably more now taking the annual rate of increase at 1.5 per cent. Its area is thus nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times of what it was and the population more than double. Among the States of India, Mysore stands eighth both in area and population. It accounts for 5.9 per cent of the total area and 5.4 per cent of the total population. The density is 259 as against the average density of 285 in the whole of India. Mysore, therefore, approximates the

average. As a result of the unification of Karnataka, the State now consists of 19 Districts—10 Districts of the Old Mysore State including a portion of Bellary District, 4 Districts of the Bombay State (Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and North Canara), 3 Districts of Hyderabad State (Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar), Kollegal Taluk and South Canara District of Madras State, and Coorg.

The population of Mysore increased by about 20 per cent during the decade 1941-51 as compared with the All-India increase of 12.5 per cent during the same period. Bangalore District with a population of 21.27 lakhs is the most populated district—Bangalore City alone, the capital of the State, accounting for nearly half the population of the district. Belgaum with a population of 16.46 lakhs and Dharwar with 15.75 lakhs occupy the next two places.

Out of the total population of 19,401,477 persons, 9,534,717 or 966 for every 1,000 males, are females. 77 per cent of the population is rural and 23 per cent urban. The percentage of the urban

population in Bangalore District, however, is 42.9. The major industries in Bangalore City have attracted a large rural population to work as labourers. If we consider a town with a population of more than one lakh as a City, there are six cities in the State, *viz.*, Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar Gold Fields, Mangalore, Hubli and Belgaum. About half of the entire city population of the State is found in Bangalore City alone.

The Present Position of Education in the State

The percentage of pupils in the Primary Schools to the total school-going population is estimated to be 46. At the end of 1955-56 Mysore had 22,060 Primary Schools, 1,250 Basic Schools and 1,968 Middle schools with 14,72,865 pupils in the Primary Schools (including Basic Schools) and 2,97,329 in the Middle Schools. There is a Primary School for every 850 of the population and for every 3 sq. miles of area. There is a Middle School for every 1,000 persons. There are 29 institutions for training teachers for the primary and Basic Schools. There are 548 High Schools with a strength of 1,93,775 students. Each High School serves an area of 150 sq. miles. There are 20 institutions for training teachers for the Secondary grade.

There are two Universities in the State—the Mysore University established in 1916, and the Karnataka University established less than 10 years ago. Sixty-seven Colleges are affiliated to these Universities of which 45 are Arts and Science Colleges, 6 Engineering, 4 Medical, 5 Law,

4 Commerce, 2 Agricultural and 1 College of Textile Technology. There are, besides, 9 Oriental Colleges and 9 Research institutions. The number of students in University Institutions is 30,875.

Mysore is one of the leading States in the field of Technical Education. At the diploma and certificate level, there are 19 Government Technical Institutions of which 10 are Polytechnics, 4 Industrial-cum-Technical High Schools, 2 Technical Training Centres and 2 Girls' Vocational Training Institutions, with a total strength of 5,300 in 1957. At the Degree level, there are 7 Government Technical Colleges with a total intake of 740.

At Collegiate Grade, there are 7 non-Basic type Teachers Training Institutions and 2 Basic Type Institutions. At the School Grade, there are 27 non-Basic Type and 21 Basic Type Training Institutions. There are also 8 Agricultural Schools and 109 institutions of Commerce recognised by the State.

The several parts of the new State are, however, in different stages of development. Generally speaking, the Old Mysore State is most developed in the matter of Public Health, Medical Relief and Communications, and Hyderabad Karnataka is the most under-developed not only in these respects but in respect of Education, Irrigation, Electric Power and Industrialisation, due both to natural and historical causes. Other parts of the New Mysore State come in-between. The Old Mysore State has yet to come up to the level of Coorg, South Canara, North Canara and Dharwar in the point of literacy.

Whereas the area per school is 2.5 sq. miles in Mysore, it is 6 sq. miles in Bidar and Gulbarga, and 9 sq. miles in Raichur. North Canara is another district which is ill-served by schools so far as the area (5.3 sq. miles) is concerned. The nature of the country partly accounts for it. In other parts of the New State, there is a school for every 3 or 4 sq. miles. This has a bearing upon the percentage of literacy in different areas. Dharwar and Coorg are most advanced in literacy, the percentage being more than 27. Next come North Canara with 25.3 per cent and South Canara with 23.30 per cent. The average in the Old Mysore State was 20.60 per cent. For the New Mysore State it is 18.7. Belgaum with 19.15 per cent and Bijapur with 18.8 per cent approach this average. The percentage of pupils of school-going age actually attending school is also poor in Hyderabad Karnataka being only 16.1 per cent in Raichur district, and 20 per cent in the three districts of Hyderabad taken together, as against 34 in Old Mysore State, 36 in Bombay Karnataka, 47 in Coorg and 67 in South Canara.

Hyderabad Karnataka is no better in the point of Higher Education and University Education. There are only 5 Colleges for all the three districts, whereas South Canara District alone has 7 Colleges. The 4 districts of Bombay Karnataka have 8 Colleges. The areas outside the Old Mysore State have thus altogether 20 Colleges whereas Old Mysore State alone has 41 Colleges. There is only one Technical and Professional College in Hyderabad, 3 in South Canara and 6 in Bombay Karnataka as against 16 in the Old Mysore State. There are only 18 High Schools in all the 3 districts of Hyderabad

together, whereas even a small district like Coorg has 11, and the districts of South Canara and Bangalore have 64 and 63 respectively, and the average number of High Schools per district in Old Mysore State is 22.

Most of the Mysore University institutions are located in Bangalore and Mysore, no less than 29 being in Bangalore City alone with a student population of nearly 13,000 ; and 21 in Mysore City, with a student population of nearly 7,000, out of the total University student population of about 31,000. South Canara comes next with 20 University Institutions. There are more than 2,300 students in the Central Collège alone and about 1,300 in the Government Intermediate College, Bangalore, excluding nearly 400 students from outer institutions that come for training. All the District Headquarters and towns of the Old Mysore State have at least one Intermediate College. Some Taluks—T.-Narasipur and Chamarajanagar in Mysore District, Kanakapur in Bangalore District and Davangere in Chitradurga District—have also Intermediate Colleges. Even an out-of-the-way place like Ramanathapur—Konanur has an Intermediate College. There are altogether 24,313 students in the Mysore University undergoing higher education, of whom about 800 belong to Depressed Classes and 3,400 are women. The rest are in the Dharwar University—In the Mysore University 11,873 students were in the Intermediate classes, 5,663 in the Degree classes and 6,777 were in Professional and Technical Institutions. In the year 1955, Degrees were awarded to 2,632 graduates, of whom 247 were women. Engineering Degrees were conferred on 408 and Medical Degrees on 65.

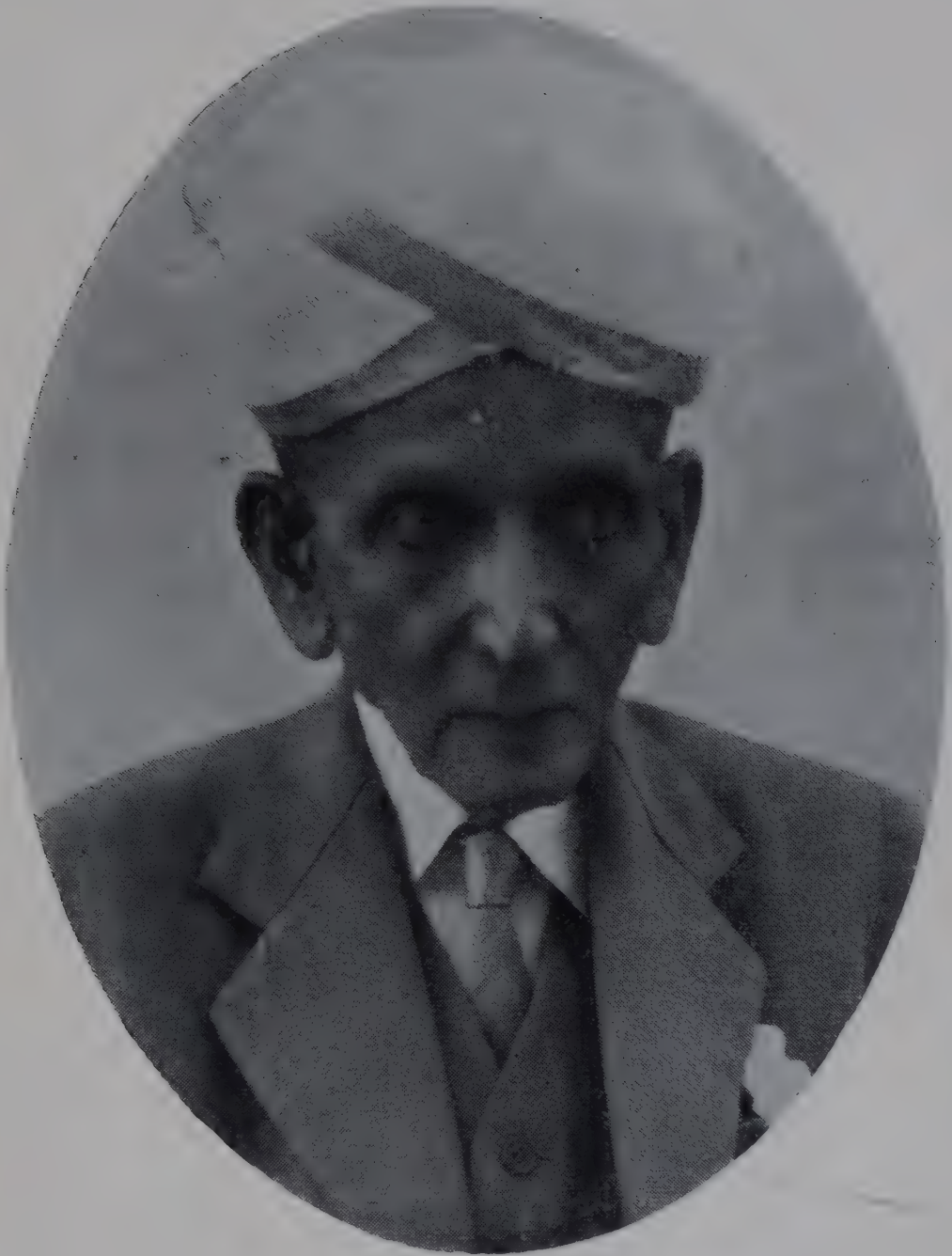
Past History

It is interesting to trace the different stages of development leading up to the present level. It is usual to divide the history of Modern Mysore into the periods—(1) the Administration by the British Commission from 1831-1881, (2) the rule of Sri Chamaraja Wadiar after the Rendition, (3) the rule of the late Maharaja Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiar and his successor, Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiar, assisted by a succession of able Dewans, (4) the period after Independence gained in 1947, and (5) the years after the unification of Karnataka on 1st November 1956.

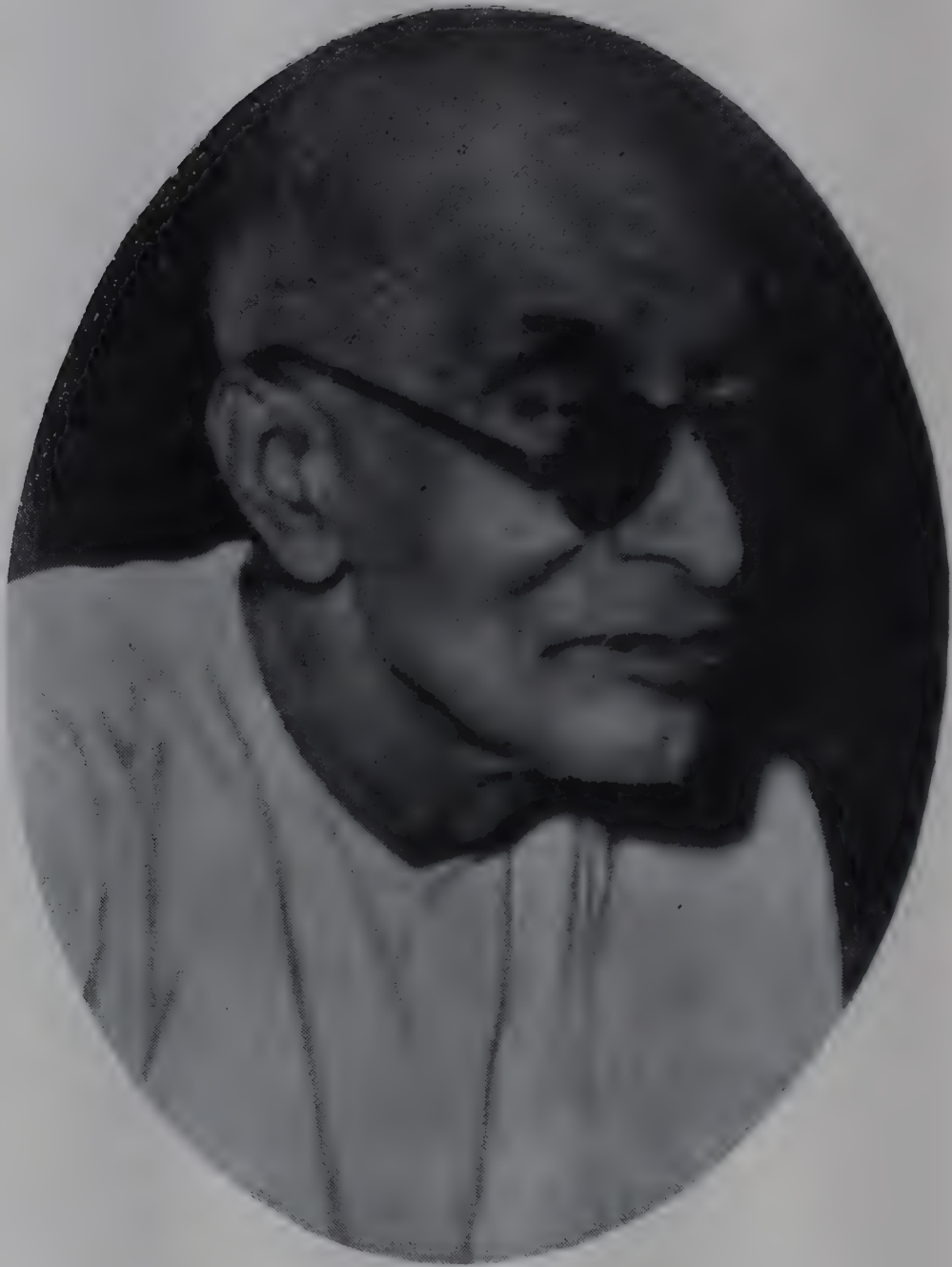
The foundations of an organized system of education may be said to have been laid by the late H. H. Sri Krishnarajendra Wadiar III who in 1833 established an English School in Mysore at his own expense. The Wesleyan Mission established a Kannada School in Tumkur in 1842. Similar schools were started by the Mission a little later at Hassan and Shimoga. The entire Government expenditure on education in 1855 was Rs. 16,500. The Department of Education came into existence in 1858 and the annual budget was Rs. 1.20 lakhs. The High School affiliated to the Madras University (the present Central College) was also established in Bangalore in 1858 and there were four High Schools, one for each Division, in Mysore, Tumkur, Hassan and Shimoga, the Mission Schools having been taken over by the Government. A Normal School for training teachers was started in Bangalore in 1861 and an Engineering School in 1862. The same year were established 146 High Schools and a Teachers' Training School at each District Headquarters Town. By the end of 1864-65,

there were 18 Government Kannada Schools and 30 other schools. The total cost on education amounted to Rs. 1.25 lakhs. By the end of 1871-72 almost all the 645 Hoblies had schools. Each Taluk had a Superior Vernacular School. There were 11 District Schools teaching up to the Matriculation standard, and 5 High Schools teaching up to the B.A. standard, two of them being at Bangalore. The total expenditure on Education had mounted by this time to more than Rs. 3.25 lakhs. In 1878 the Bangalore High School and the Maharaja's High School at Mysore were up-graded and converted into the Central College and the Maharaja's College and were affiliated to the Madras University as First Grade Colleges. The Schools in Mysore and Shimoga became High Schools teaching upto the F. A. standard and there were in addition 4 schools preparing for the Entrance Examination. At the time of Rendition in 1881 there were altogether 2,087 schools imparting instruction to 57,657 pupils and the expenditure on Education was about Rs. 4.00 lakhs.

After the Rendition the education of women received a great impetus by the establishment of the Maharani's Girls' High School at Mysore. It became a Second Grade College in 1903. A Kannada and a Sanskrit College were also established. In the period 1890-1902, the Oriental Library at Mysore was founded. Industrial Schools were opened in Hassan and Mysore and Special Schools for the education of the Depressed Classes were started in various places. The period 1902-1911 saw the opening of Industrial Schools at five selected centres and an Engineering School at Mysore. At the end of 1910-11, there were in all 20 Industrial



Bharatharathna M. VISVESVARAYA



Bharatharathna C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

and Technical Schools with 1,234 pupils. The expenditure on Education rose to Rs. 18,79,133.

The Mechanical Engineering School at Bangalore, the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore, the Government Commercial School at Bangalore and the Agricultural School at Hebbal were established in 1913.

The Mysore University, the first University to be founded in an Indian State, was established in 1916. The Scheme of Adult Education was introduced in 1941-42. By the end of 1951-52, there was one Middle School for every 7 Primary Schools. Some idea of the progress of Education in the State can be had from the following table.

Year	No. of Institutions	No. of pupils	Expenditure on Education	Percentage to total Revenue of the State	Population (In thousands)
<i>Old Mysore State</i>					
			Rs.		
1881	2,087	57,657	4,11,807	2.9	4,186
1891	3,410	96,427	6,39,737	4.4	4,944
1901	4,009	1,16,468	10,98,170	5.7	5,546
1911	14,268	1,38,153	18,79,133	7.3	5,814
1921	10,480	3,24,555	48,09,880	13.7	5,988
1931	8,315	3,23,046	69,08,448	20.8	6,566
1941	8,158	4,69,983	74,38,315	15.4	7,338
1951	13,872	9,19,320	3,11,43,520	22.7	9,075
<i>After Reorganisation</i>					
			Rs.		
1957	22,060	14,35,907	10,78,00,000	23.0	19,000 (Estimated)

Future Plans

The Second Five-Year Plan envisages an outlay of Rs. 145.13 crores, out of which Rs. 11.50 crores are for the improvement of Education, forming 7.9 per cent of the outlay. It is one of the directive principles of the Constitution that the States should endeavour to introduce free and compulsory education to all those below the age of 15 years by 1961. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, it is expected that the percentage of school-going children actually attending school in the Mysore State will rise to 56 per cent from the present 46 per cent. We are still thus far away from the goal. It is, however, expected that we will reach the goal by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan period. In the Second Five-Year Plan 65 per cent of the outlay on Education will be on Primary Education alone. Three thousand new schools will be started in school-less areas.

According to the report of the Committee for Educational Reforms in Mysore published in 1953 the State was already spending a fourth of its total revenue on Education. According to the recommendations of the Committee, the State will have to spend half of its total revenue on Education by the end of the next 10 years, if all the recommendations are given effect to. As this may be impracticable even with the additional sources of revenue indicated in the report, the Committee has recommended that there should be substantial Central aid. The State is now spending Rs. 10,78,26,000 on Education out of a total revenue of Rs. 50,96,65,000, the breakup under

different grades of Education being as noted below :—

University	..	Rs.	1,06,04,000
Secondary	..	„	1,31,64,800
Primary	..	„	6,36,43,400
Special	..	„	46,89,400
General	..	„	1,57,24,600
Total	..	Rs.	10,78,26,200

Our Ideal

The ideals before the country are set forth in the speech of the late Maharaja of Mysore while inaugurating the first meeting of the Mysore University Syndicate and in the speech of Dr. Metcalfe, Principal of the Central College, at a meeting of the Old Boys' Association. I cannot do better than conclude by quoting from those speeches.

The Maharaja said : “ I feel that I ought to say a few words as to what I think should be the aim of our University. In the first place, we should spare no effort to gain for the Mysore University the respect of the educational world. This end can only be achieved by maintaining a really high standard of teaching and examination and also by never allowing

that standard to be lowered however strongly you may be tempted by the use of numerical results. It should be the aim too of the University to turn out graduates who are not merely learned but who are of high character and refinement, the distinguishing marks of every true gentleman.”

Regarding University life and ideals, Dr. Metcalfe said : “ The aims of a University institution are to instruct and educate the young and to foster learning. To instruct and educate the young is not merely to gather them at stated times in the class rooms and endeavour to give a certain amount of information to them. The objective of educative instruction is much more than that. It includes things like physical culture, love of beauty, love of art so far as it is possible to inculcate it, as well as a knowledge of not only the text book side of science but of the general trend of development of Science in the world. Our object is first of all to make our students men, secondly to make them gentlemen and then if we can, to make them gentlemen capable of making their way in the world.”

An account of the growth of the Central College from its humble beginning and the reminiscences connected with the College and its staff and students will be found elsewhere in this publication.

HISTORY OF ITS HUNDRED YEARS

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN RESPONSE to a petition submitted to the then British Government by some of the prominent residents of the town of Bangalore like S. B. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, V. N. Narasimha Iyengar, Murugesha Mudaliar, Gangiah, Marigangiah and others, a little school with 5 students on its rolls was started in January 1858 in a small shed erected in what must have been a 'hallowed spot' in the northern outskirts of the town. This small shed is no longer to be seen, but its existence in the area somewhere near the present tiffin rooms still lingers as a sweet and sacred memory in the minds of those who roam about among the magnificent and extensive pile of buildings which constitute the Central College as we see it now. We at the present day who see schools and colleges housed in big and palatial buildings scattered all over the city naturally think of the institution started in 1858 as a little school; but the founding of this 'little school' must have been a 'big event' in those days when education was still confined to the orthodox and traditional methods of instruction at home, or the imparting of a rudimentary knowledge of

the three R's in pial schools. This 'little school' housed in a 'small shed' and with just 5 students on its rolls was the tender sapling planted in 1858 which gradually grew up, spreading its branches far and wide and developed into the mighty tree of the Central College, as we see it today. Thus was the College born a hundred years ago, and it is the Centenary of this event that we are celebrating today.

This small school started in 1858 was called the 'Bangalore High School' and the first head of this institution—he was called the Principal even in those days—was the Rev. Mr. J. Garret, who was previously serving in one of the older missionary institutions already working in Bangalore. A couple of years later Mr. Garret became the Director of Public Instruction and his place as the Principal of the High School—it came to be called the 'Central High School' then—was taken by Mr. B. L. Rice who worked as the Head of the Institution for five years from 1860 to 1865; and it was in his time that the first batch of students appeared for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University, in 1863. Sir Mark

Cubbon, the then Chief Commissioner, considered instruction in Natural Science as an important part of education and it was definitely laid down that this new High School should give prominence to 'Science' in its work. Thus a bias towards science was impressed on the institution practically ever since its inception; it has thus developed throughout with an increasing emphasis on scientific studies and is today not only the premier College of Science in the Mysore University, but is also well known as one of the foremost institutions in India for advanced scientific study and research. Mr. B. L. Rice was succeeded as the Principal of the School by Mr. Charles Waters who held the office for 16 years at a stretch from 1867 to 1882; and it was during part of this period (1876-82) that Mr. H. J. Bhabha, whose name is so well known in history of education in Mysore, was its Vice-Principal. It was entirely due to the affectionate care and thoughtful attention bestowed by these three pioneers—Garret, Rice and Waters—during the first twenty-five years of its existence that the young institution grew up on firm and solid foundations with great potentialities for future development and expansion.

Almost immediately after the 'little school' was started in 1858, the Government decided to construct a suitable building for the new institution, and accordingly the central portion of the present Main Block of the College came into existence in 1860. This consisted of a main hall with a suite of three rooms on either side, and with an imposing central clock tower which stands to this day in all its grandeur and majesty. It is an eloquent testimony to the professional skill and æsthetic sense of the engineers

of those days when we see that even today, nearly a hundred years after its construction, this is still recognized as the most beautiful clock-tower in the city of Bangalore. The Central Hall was used for the Science classes in those days; the rooms on its right side were occupied by the Mathematics section, while the corresponding portion on the other side accommodated the Office and the Principal's Room. It is most interesting to observe that the room occupied by the Principal nearly a hundred years ago still continues to be the Principal's Room, although in the meanwhile, the College buildings have expanded enormously. It is by no means the best room in the College today, certainly not from the point of view of light and ventilation; but nevertheless no Principal has ever thought (except for a brief period of 2 years quite recently) of making a change—call it sentiment or what you will! The room has acquired a tradition of its own, and become a sort of "sanctum sanctorum" in this Temple of Learning.

As the strength of the institution increased and larger classes came in, this central block was later extended by the addition of two wings on either side, together with a big lecture hall and a few rooms behind. This completed the picture of the Central College as it was seen by the old 'Old Boys' of the College till 1908.

The year 1875 is an important landmark in the history of this institution; for it was in that year that the 'Central High School' became the 'Central College' although, as a matter of fact, classes of the college standard were being conducted in the so called 'High School'



Rajamantrapravina H. V. NANJUNDAYYA
First Vice-Chancellor (1916-1920)



Rajatantrapravina BRAJENDRA NATH SEAL
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore (1921-1929)



Padmabhushana DR. K. V. PUTTAPPA
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore

even in earlier years—the first batch sitting for the B.A. degree as far back as 1872. The naming of the institution as the ‘Central College’ marked a great transformation in the evolutionary history of the institution, and it was this event that was remembered in 1935 when the Central College celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. In 1875 it was still a very small institution ; the total strength of the four College classes, for instance, being just 43, with only 3 students in the B.A. class. The annual grant from the Government for its maintenance was Rs. 18,000. Today the annual budget of the Central College is of the order of Rs. 7.58 lakhs !

Although it became a first grade college in 1875 it continued to include in its fold all the lower classes including even the ‘alphabet class’. The pre-High School classes were taken away only in 1883 to constitute the New City Municipal School ; and it was only about 25 years later that the Central College also shed its High School section, which began to exist separately as the Government High School, and for the use of which a new building opposite the Central College (the one now occupied by the Intermediate College), was specially put up in 1912.

As soon as it became a first grade college, Mr. H. J. Bhabha was appointed as its Vice-Principal to assist the Principal, Mr. Waters, in the administration of the new college. Mr. Bhabha was there as its Vice-Principal for 8 years (1876-84) when he relinquished the office on his appointment as the Inspector-General of Education. The post of Vice-Principal was evidently abolished then, and it is strange to think that it has never been revived during all these subsequent years !

We at the present day would of course very much like to know all about the work and activities of the institution in its earliest days—during the first twenty-five years of its existence, before it blossomed into the Central College ; unfortunately our information in this respect is very meagre ; but what little we know from gleanings here and there is most interesting ! In its early days as a High School it would appear that the whole library was confined to a small almirah, and was in charge of a class teacher who rarely thought it necessary or desirable to take the books out from their shelves,—much less to lend them to the students. The library in those days was looked upon as a collection of books to be carefully ‘preserved for posterity’. The number of students then was also very small, not more than 100 in all. There was no Hostel in those days ; no, not even a tiffin room. As an ‘Old Boy’ put it : “The tiffin for many of my contemporaries during the leisure hour was, in addition to what they could bring with them, such provender as was kindly supplied by a dame under yonder tree, fresh from her ever-ready oven in exchange for a good portion of the stinted supply of pocket money which we had”. The students in those days had also to face a number of other difficulties. They had no railways, and travelling had to be done only in country carts. They had no ‘Money Order system’ then—not even between Mysore and Bangalore. They drew remittance in this manner. “Money had to be paid into the Mysore District Treasury and receipts were obtained in duplicate one of which was sent to the student and the other to the Treasury here ; and there was no name put down

on the receipt. The party whom they had to go to was a sour sort of man. They had to go to him in his leisure hours between 2 and 3 P.M. They used to take the duplicate and wait at the Treasury. Unless and until he was satisfied with their correct names, money would not be paid”.

There are two photographs in the Central College (reproduced here as plates) showing the classes in those early days; one is of the Matriculation class of 1866, and the other of the F.A. class in the same year; these two pictures are most interesting to study—the more you look at them the more ‘informative’ they become! In one of them, you see the whole Matriculation class, 10 students in all, in their most picturesque dress gathered like members of a family round their teacher—probably Mr. Waters; among them, and seated right opposite to the teacher, there is a little boy with a big turban, who seems to be hardly 10 or 11 years of age. One wonders whether he was also a student! The other photograph is of the F.A. class that year—just 5 students—similarly gathered round Mr. Waters seated in the centre. The small classes of those days, and the way in which the students sat affectionately all-round their teacher for their instruction reminds us of the old ‘Gurukula System’ so typical of the earliest days of education in our country.

The idea of there being lady students in the College in those days was simply unthinkable! It would appear that to get a few girls to join even the High Schools then, it required all the encouragement and persuasion on the part of the Government. It is said that in one of the High

Schools of the State in those days where special efforts were made in this direction, a few girls ultimately agreed to join the school but laid down three definite conditions before they did so: (i) that a separate room should be provided for them in the school, with an elderly educated lady appointed to teach and look after them while they were there, (ii) that their names were not to be entered on the rolls and (iii) that they should not be required to appear for any public examination. What a change from those times as we see the position today!

When the Central High School in Bangalore became a First Grade College in 1875, it appears there were only two optional subjects taught in the College for the B.A. degree, *viz.*, (i) Mathematics and (ii) Logic and Morals. Besides Mr. Waters who was the Principal, the other members of the staff at about that time were Messrs. Bhabha, King, R. Venkataramiah, S. Krishnaswamy Iyer, S. Malhari Rao, G. Krishna Rao, C. Krishna Rao, and C. Vasudeviah. Mr. Waters who was the Principal for 16 years, was it seems “kind and frank, a little short-tempered but open to correction later on, a lover of his students. He had a rough exterior and was a strict disciplinarian”. The advice which he always gave to his students was: “Be truthful, be obedient, be manly, and you will be successful in life; or at any rate, happy in the thought that you have done what is right.

Mr. Waters retired from the Principalship of the College in 1882; and it appears for this post which had thus become vacant, there were two educationists from

Madras who had applied. "One was an M.A. in Mathematics who described the other as a bookworm and not upto date, while the other who was a Literature M.A. described his rival as uncultured and fit only to file and sharpen tools." Dewan Rangacharlu interviewed both these candidates, and did not take very long to decide in favour of the Scientist, and that was Mr. John Cook. It was this choice of a 'far-sighted statesman' that decided the future of the Central College and definitely initiated its growth as a College of Science.

With the appointment of Mr. Cook as the Principal a new 'era' started in the history of the College. He was the Principal for more than 25 years and throughout this long period he devoted himself heart and soul to this institution and its progress; to him the Central College was always "my college"; and to the general public outside "Mr. Cook was the Central College". He was himself a well known man of Science and throughout his Principalship he strove with great success to make the Central College a really first rate Science College in those days. The College was still a small institution when Mr. Cook took charge; the total number of students including the High School section was then only about 150. Science teaching in those days was also something very different from what it is today. It was all merely a series of classroom lectures with a few "experiments" described on the black-board; the only Laboratory which the College then possessed was a few bits of apparatus stored in half-a-dozen almirahs in the Lecture hall, the Central hall in the main block now occupied by the General Library. Mr. Cook seems to

have been a pioneer in the matter of actually conducting a few experiments and demonstrations on his lecture table for the benefit of the whole class; the poor students "had to observe what was going on on the experimental tables and at the same time take down the notes" dictated by the Professor; this was by no means a happy or pleasant task!

Mr. Cook attached great importance, and rightly, to the study of Mathematics side by side with Physics; and accordingly the Mathematics section of the College was also considerably improved. Mr. R. H. Piggot, a Senior Wrangler of the Cambridge University and a distinguished Mathematician was appointed Professor in 1886 with Mr. T. R. Venkatasami Naidu as his Assistant. In the year 1889 Mr. M. T. Narayana Iyengar who had just then graduated from the Central College with high distinction in Mathematics was also appointed as a Mathematics teacher. Unfortunately Mr. Piggot suddenly passed away in 1889; and Mr. T. R. Venkatasami Naidu was transferred as Inspector-General of Education in 1891. Thus Mr. M. T. Narayana Iyengar who was the next senior Assistant was then appointed as the Professor of Mathematics, which post he occupied with outstanding ability and distinction for nearly 35 years! Several generations of students who studied Mathematics under him during that long period have always remembered him with the highest veneration and respect not only for his distinguished eminence as a teacher, but also for his gentle temperament and saintly personality.

With the starting of a Department of Mines and Geology in Mysore in the year

1894, it was felt by the Government that it was desirable to make some provision for the training of young men in geological studies; accordingly a Geology section was opened in the Central College in 1898. Geology was taken as an Optional subject only for the B.A. course; and the whole section was housed in a single room in one of the wings of the central block, and Mr. E. W. Wetherell, one of the officers of the Department did part-time work here as a Lecturer in Geology. The Geology students had also to do a little Subsidiary Biology in those days; and this was taught, again on a part-time basis, by Dr. M. Srinivasa Rao, who was then the Superintendent of the Public Health Institute.

Thus the three main Science subjects taught in the Central College for the B.A. degree courses of the Madras University during the days of Dr. Cook were Physics, Mathematics and Geology.

Mr. J. G. Tait was appointed as the Professor of English in 1890, and his colleagues in the earlier years were Messrs. C. M. Leonard, P. R. Subramanya Sastri, A. J. Grieve, K. A. Krishnaswami Iyer, C. M. Borrow and A. E. Adolphus. Mr. F. R. Sell joined the College as Professor of English in 1905 and continued as such for about 30 years. The Vernacular departments of the College in those early days were also presided over by learned Pandits who by their profound scholarship and exemplary character commanded the respect and admiration of the staff and the students alike. In Sanskrit there were Pandits Ramasesha Sastry and C. Visweswara Sastry; and for Kannada Pandits Garni Krishnachar and Jaya-

ramavenkatachar. Pandit L. Srinivasa-chariar, Vidwan T. G. Narayanaswami Pillai, and Moulvi Khader Mohidin Meccai were in charge respectively of the Telugu, Tamil and Urdu sections.

During the years 1888-1898 the College had touched its zenith of efficiency in games and sports. Among the first few that added to the sports reputation of the College may be mentioned Messrs. C. Subbaiya, C. Chinniah and B. Seshagiri Rao; and later, the College teams in both Cricket and Tennis of which the two outstanding stalwarts in those days were B. Jayaram and D. Srinivasa Rao, had the reputation of being 'unbeatable'; they annexed the coveted Brandt Hutchins Trophy for Cricket at Madras by winning it successively for three years from 1893. In Tennis the College team proved too formidable for any opponents, and won every tournament both in Bangalore and Madras continuously for a period of 10 years and secured for the College all the most valuable trophies during this period including the famous Girdlestone Trophy in Bangalore and the Travancore Tennis Trophy at Madras. During the years 1898 and 1899 Mr. G. Sreedhara Murthy was a great player in Tennis and helped the College to win many of the Madras cups.

Mr. Tait who joined the College in 1890 as Professor of English was particularly fond of Cricket and did everything possible, both by precept and example, to maintain the highest standards of the game during his 28 years of association with the College. Among those who maintained the reputation of the College in Cricket in those early days may be mentioned the well known players like

Leonard, K. R. K. Iyengar, K. Siddaramappa, T. Singaravelu Mudaliar, T. V. A. Iswaran, K. T. Sudarsana Iyengar, M. L. Narasimha Iyengar and A. Subba Rao. Later Football also became quite popular and the tournaments organised by the College for its 'Rolling Trophy' for a number of years attracted all the best teams in Bangalore and the standard of the game was very high. The College teams did exceedingly well in many of these tournaments and some of the best known players during those years were P. Sampat Iyengar, A. Subba Rao, B. S. Keshava Vittal, M. L. Narasimha Iyengar, P. R. Balakrishnan, M. Srinivasacharlu, Y. P. Vasudevan and G. N. Anniah. Hockey also came into the picture ere long and the College had quite a number of star players in its teams year after year.

One of the great things which Dr. Cook achieved as the Principal of the College was the establishment of a Hostel for its students. As a result of his repeated representations to the Government, the construction of a Hostel was sanctioned and a beautiful building in two blocks, as one can see them even now, was specially built for the purpose, on a site adjacent to the College on the other side of the road, obtained, as Dr. Cook put it "by reducing that assigned to a neighbouring Compulsory Boarding House better known as 'the Central Jail'". The building was completed in 1900, and the Hostel itself started functioning from the next year with its full complement of 96 boarders. For about 50 years afterwards the Hostel continued to have the same capacity although the number of students for whom it had to cater had increased ten-fold in the meanwhile; it was only

in 1950 that an additional block to take in 48 more students was built; thus the total accommodation in the Hostel, even today, is only for about 150 students.

The College library at the time when Dr. Cook took charge was also a very small one, and the annual grant for the purchase of new books was only Rs. 200. There was no separate Librarian, and of course no Catalogue. In 1891 the Government sanctioned the post of a Librarian and more liberal annual grants were also provided for the purchase of books. The problem of suitable accommodation for the Library was still there even after 15 years, and Dr. Cook wrote in 1906, a couple of years before his retirement: "It is to be hoped that the cause of my standing complaint of insufficient library accommodation will soon be removed, and that a well lighted and spacious room will be provided, and that it will also be electrically lighted and kept open till 9 o'clock in the evening especially for the sake of Hostel students who are housed so near." The General Library of the College continues to be located till today in the Central Hall of the main block, and the need for the kind of 'suitable, spacious, and well-lighted accommodation' visualised by Dr. Cook 50 years ago as necessary for the Library still stands!

In addition to the General Library, the different teaching Departments of the College are now having their own Sectional libraries, containing the latest books, journals and periodicals available for study and ready reference by the staff and students, in their respective subjects.

Dr. Cook retired from the Principalship of the College in the year 1908 and a special Farewell Meeting was organised in his honour under the Presidentship of the then Dewan, Sir P. N. Krishna Murthy, who was himself an 'Old Boy' of Dr. Cook. The spontaneous demonstration of affection, regard and admiration on that occasion by his numerous colleagues and students—old and new—is unrivalled in the history of the College. Dr. Cook was visibly moved on the occasion, and actually burst into tears when “a number of enthusiasts took the horse out of Mr. Cook's carriage and dragged Mr. and Mrs. Cook the whole way to the Cubbon Hotel, with the pipers of the 12th Napier's Rifles playing in front. The Government of Mysore issued a special Order appreciating Dr. Cook's services in which they said: “Besides his duties as Principal, Mr. Cook's chief attention was devoted to organising and improving the teaching of Physical Science and as a result of his sustained interest in the work, the College has attained in that branch of Science a reputation second to none in Southern India, and it is largely this circumstance that has decided the Government to make the teaching of science the speciality of the Central College. In creating and fostering a taste for scientific studies among the numerous students that have passed through the College, Mr. Cook has done much to give a practical turn to Education in the State. Both as Principal and Professor Mr. Cook has always deserved and secured the regard and respect of his colleagues and the reverence and devotion of his students.”

On the retirement of Dr. Cook, Mr. J. G. Tait was appointed Principal of the College. Even in the days of Dr.

Cook's principalship, Mr. Tait was there on the staff as Professor of English for 18 years and had already played a notable part in the development of the College. His eminence as a scholar and his keen sense of literary criticism and appreciation were well known; and his qualities as a teacher of English were unique. He was a man of 'few words'; but those 'few words' would convey a lot more knowledge and understanding than a whole course of set lectures. In addition to his being a distinguished Professor, he was a great sportsman and was very largely responsible for building up the high reputation which the Central College enjoyed in those days in the field of games and sports. With a tall, robust and wellbuilt stature, he possessed a dominating personality—often grim and awe-inspiring; but those who moved with him for some time and came to know the man more intimately soon recognised that his stern and forbidding exterior covered a noble soul and a most generous heart. He was a great man in the fullest sense of the word; great in stature, great in scholarship, great in sportsmanship, and great in charity; and he naturally made an indelible impression on the minds of the thousands of students who studied at his feet.

The year 1908 was also significant in the history of the College because it was in that year that the first 'College Day' was celebrated. On the occasion of the farewell entertainment given to Dr. Cook that year, Sir P. N. Krishna Murthy, the Chairman of the function pointed out that it was then exactly 50 years since the 'High School' which later developed into the Central College was started, and

that it would be appropriate to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the College that year. The idea was taken up at once in right earnest; and a big function was got up for celebrating the Jubilee under the Chairmanship of Sir P. N. Krishna Murthy himself, and quite a large number of the 'Old Boys' of the College were also invited for this function. In organising this Celebration, Dr. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar who was then on the college staff played an important part; the function was a great success, and the "coming together" of the past and present students for such celebrations was so enthusiastically appreciated that the gathering decided then and there to have such 'College Days' every year. Ever since then such functions, as we know now, have become quite a regular feature of the college life.

Till the year 1924, the College Days used to be celebrated by *ad hoc* Working Committees nominated for the time being; it was in that year that the idea

of having a regular and permanent organisation of 'Old Boys' was suggested, and accordingly, after due consideration, the "Central College Old Boys' Association" was duly started with Mr. Humza Hussain as its first President and Messrs. M. Venkatesa Iyengar and P. Sampat Iyengar as the first Secretaries. From 1925 onwards the C.C.O.B.A. (as it is now popularly known) has been functioning, and this body has been undertaking the task of celebrating the 'College Day' in successive years. A Science Exhibition is being organised by the College every year on such occasions, and thrown open to the Public for several days afterwards. These have become an important and attractive feature of these celebrations in recent years. Many distinguished 'Old Boys' have participated in the College Day functions from time to time, and made most valuable and interesting speeches regarding the College—its past, present, and future. Here are a few extracts from some of the earlier of such speeches which are worth recalling even today :

"I believe that the demand for increased admissions to Colleges would cease, if success in University Examinations were no longer insisted upon as an indispensable qualification for employment in a Government office".

—J. G. TAIT, 1914.

"Wit and Humour are the sauce of life and their value for controlling large assemblies like the Houses of Parliament is well known and hence these qualities are considered as an essential requisite of the Speaker of the House of Commons. To control a class and rule the undisciplined youth is in no way an easier task and I hope the University authorities will eschew teachers who are devoid of a sense of humour and who are wont to deliver their lectures with the solemnity of funeral sermons."

—MIR HUMZA HUSSAIN, 1923.

“What our troubled country needs today is lofty and intelligent leadership,—leaders of widened horizons and enlarged understanding. Our Universities may well endeavour to supply such men. India needs not more heat, but more light; not more passion but more intelligence; not more propaganda but more enlightenment. May this College be at once the best place of education, the greatest machine for research, and the most delicious retreat for learned leisure!”

—SIR MIRZA MOHAMED ISMAIL, 1927.

“I want to explain that the University Professor’s work is not entirely connected with giving lectures. At the present time progress in all kinds of Science, and in fact all branches of learning, is proceeding at a tremendous rate. Never in the history of the world is progress in knowledge carried on at such a pace. A Professor or teacher of any branch of learning is bound to keep himself abreast of it as far as he possibly can. A Professor cannot keep abreast of the progress of any Science unless he is actively engaged in trying to further his own knowledge in that branch of Science. It is very highly desirable that every University Professor should engage himself, if possible and as far as possible, in some branch of learning. This has to be recognised so that proper opportunities and sufficient leisure so far as funds may permit may be devoted for this particular purpose.”

—DR. E. P. METCALFE, 1927.

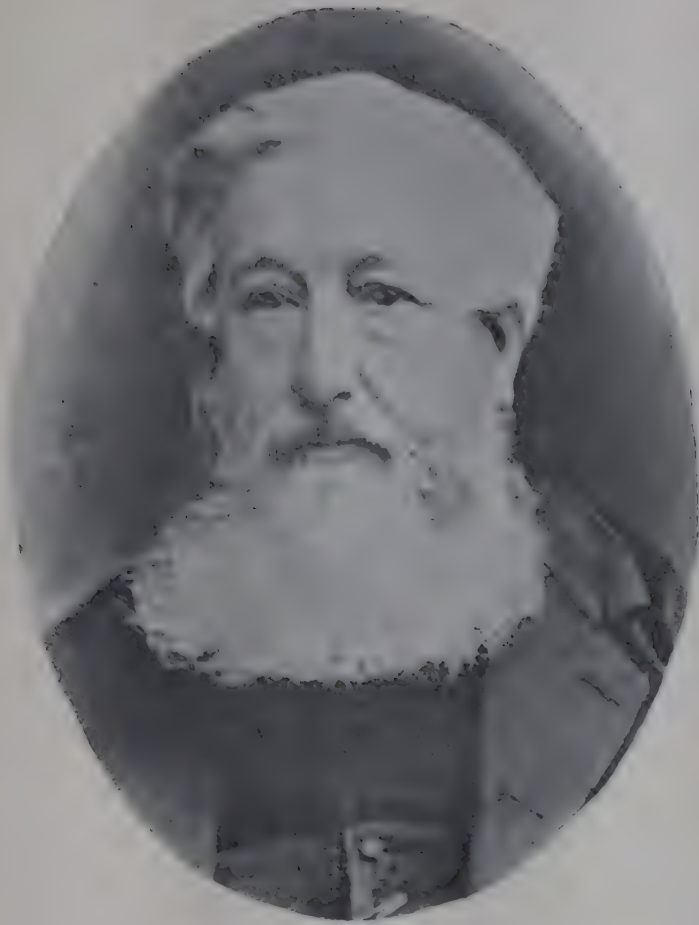
“The research atmosphere pervading a laboratory has a profound influence on all the students. In the first place contact with those who are engaged in original investigation induces, so to speak, a spirit of independent thought, resourcefulness and originality even in Pass students. In the second place, the class lectures of one, who is himself an investigator, have a freshness and are imbued with an enthusiasm, which have a quality all their own, and not to be found in the lectures of one who has never attempted to fathom the mysteries of nature. Moreover, a University is not a pile of buildings, nor a body of students merely, nor a large amount of apparatus, but it is a body of men who are engaged in enlarging the boundaries of knowledge.”

—PROF. B. VENKATESHACHAR, 1935.

“That intangible personality that you build up is the child of the institution and I hope that all old boys will remember their mother which unlike ordinary feminine persons grows in beauty as it grows older in age. This College is more beautiful today than it was before, and you must be proud of it and grateful to those who make it more and more beautiful as the years pass on. It fills my heart at any rate with great joy when I see that instead of crumbling down like an old temple, it is growing richer and more and more beautiful, more and more attended to, in fact younger every day as she grows older.”

—SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI, 1937.

PRINCIPALS



THE REV. MR. J. GARRETT

First Principal, Central High School (1858-1860)



B. L. RICE, ESQ.

Principal, Central High School (1860-1865)



CHARLES WATERS, ESQ.

*Principal, Central High School (1867-1875)
and First Principal, Central College (1875-1882)*



Mushir-ul-Talim DR. H. J. BHABHA

Vice-Principal, Central College (1876-1884)

PRINCIPALS



DR. JOHN COOK
(1882-1908)



J. G. TAIT, ESQ.
(1908-1917)



DR. E. P. METCALFE
Principal (1917-1929)
Subsequently Vice-Chancellor



F. R. SELL, ESQ.
(1929-1934)

Now to come back to the history of the College. From the educational point of view also, the year 1908 marks an important landmark in the development of the College. At about that time, the Madras University reorganised its entire courses of studies on the recommendations of the Bourne Commission; the most important feature of this reorganisation was the introduction of Practical Work in all the Science subjects, where the students could actually handle scientific instruments and apparatus, conduct experiments and thus gather knowledge 'first hand' instead of from theoretical class-rooms lectures and 'blackboard experiments'. Practical Examinations for the students were also introduced at the B.A. level as part of the University Examination at the end of the course. All the colleges affiliated to the Madras University had now to make suitable provision, by way of building and equipment, for the conduct of Practical Classes before they could be further recognised and affiliated to the University for these new courses; accordingly the Central College, which was already essentially a Science College, had to fall into line and undertake the important task of 'expanding' itself as required by the new Rules and Regulations. The first thing that was done to solve the problem of accommodation was to remove the High School classes from the Central College,—they were there for 50 years by now—and transfer them to a new Government High School specially started for this purpose. The new 'reorganisation' also immediately meant two things: (i) the construction of elaborate Laboratories and their proper equipment for practical work, and (ii) the appointment of a much larger staff to conduct and be in charge of these

Practical Classes. The College had thus to undergo a 'transformation' as it were to suit the new conditions. This it did very successfully during the years 1908-1910. The two subjects which required the most elaborate and extensive laboratories to provide for suitable practical work for the large number of students, were Physics and Chemistry. Accordingly the Government decided to build two separate blocks of buildings, one for each of these subjects, and provide them immediately with the necessary furniture, apparatus, and equipment. This work of building and organising the new Laboratories was in the hands of two young, energetic and brilliant Science men, Dr. E. P. Metcalfe and Dr. F. L. Usher—who had just arrived from England to take up the posts of Professors of Physics and Chemistry respectively in the Central College. Under their close and personal supervision at every stage, and with the loyal and enthusiastic co-operation of their staff like Messrs. B. Venkatanaranappa and B. Venkateshachar in Physics, and Messrs. C. M. Vijayaraghavachar and M. G. Srinivasa Rao in Chemistry, the two laboratories came up very nicely and were soon recognised as two of the foremost laboratories for study and research in these science subjects. The College then acquired its present imposing appearance; with these two big laboratories on either side, and the Main Central Block with its tall clock tower in the middle standing like a "*stately matron between her two stalwart sons*" and proclaiming to all the world "*Men may come and men may go, but we go on for ever.*"

Mathematics was the other important optional subject offered by the Central

PRINCIPALS



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R. SELL, ESQ.
(1929-1934)

Now to come back to the history of the College. From the educational point of view also, the year 1908 marks an important landmark in the development of the College. At about that time, the Madras University reorganised its entire courses of studies on the recommendations of the Bourne Commission; the most important feature of this reorganisation was the introduction of Practical Work in all the Science subjects, where the students could actually handle scientific instruments and apparatus, conduct experiments and thus gather knowledge 'first hand' instead of from theoretical class-rooms lectures and 'blackboard experiments'. Practical Examinations for the students were also introduced at the B.A. level as part of the University Examination at the end of the course. All the colleges affiliated to the Madras University had now to make suitable provision, by way of building and equipment, for the conduct of Practical Classes before they could be further recognised and affiliated to the University for these new courses; accordingly the Central College, which was already essentially a Science College, had to fall into line and undertake the important task of 'expanding' itself as required by the new Rules and Regulations. The first thing that was done to solve the problem of accommodation was to remove the High School classes from the Central College,—they were there for 50 years by now—and transfer them to a new Government High School specially started for this purpose. The new 'reorganisation' also immediately meant two things: (i) the construction of elaborate Laboratories and their proper equipment for practical work, and (ii) the appointment of a much larger staff to conduct and be in charge of these

Practical Classes. The College had thus to undergo a 'transformation' as it were to suit the new conditions. This it did very successfully during the years 1908-1910. The two subjects which required the most elaborate and extensive laboratories to provide for suitable practical work for the large number of students, were Physics and Chemistry. Accordingly the Government decided to build two separate blocks of buildings, one for each of these subjects, and provide them immediately with the necessary furniture, apparatus, and equipment. This work of building and organising the new Laboratories was in the hands of two young, energetic and brilliant Science men, Dr. E. P. Metcalfe and Dr. F. L. Usher—who had just arrived from England to take up the posts of Professors of Physics and Chemistry respectively in the Central College. Under their close and personal supervision at every stage, and with the loyal and enthusiastic co-operation of their staff like Messrs. B. Venkatanaranappa and B. Venkateshachar in Physics, and Messrs. C. M. Vijayaraghavachar and M. G. Srinivasa Rao in Chemistry, the two laboratories came up very nicely and were soon recognised as two of the foremost laboratories for study and research in these science subjects. The College then acquired its present imposing appearance; with these two big laboratories on either side, and the Main Central Block with its tall clock tower in the middle standing like a "*stately matron between her two stalwart sons*" and proclaiming to all the world "*Men may come and men may go, but we go on for ever.*"

Mathematics was the other important optional subject offered by the Central

College under the new scheme, and so that Department had also to expand; but luckily they did not need big laboratories; all that they wanted were a few more rooms and some extra blackboards, and these were easily provided. Geology, the other optional science subject had to reorganise its courses as well; but since the subject was taught only in the B.A. course, there were no serious problems. In place of the part-time lecturer of the olden days, a full-time Professor, Mr. V. S. Sambasiva Iyer, was appointed to look after the organisation and teaching work under the new set up. The necessary equipment by way of microscopes, specimens, and models were soon purchased and the required accommodation for the conduct of Practical Classes was made available in one of the wings of the central block.

At that time Zoology and Botany were not taught as 'Main' subjects for the B.A. and they had therefore not become 'full-fledged' Departments on a par with the other subjects. Zoology was taught for the Intermediate and also as a 'Subsidiary' subject for the B.A. for those who took Geology as Main; the teaching of Botany, however, was confined to the Intermediate Classes only. Mr. C. R. Narayana Rao and Mr. M. A. Sampathkumaran were respectively the Heads of the two departments then.

From about 1910 the different classes in the Central College—two Intermediate (Jr. and Sr.) and two B.A. (Jr. and Sr.)—started working in full swing according to the reorganised courses of the Madras University, and Science teaching in the Central College had taken a big step forward.

Mr. C. M. Vijayaraghavachar, who was one of the earliest to join the staff of the Chemistry section in the College, left in 1916 to take over as Circle Inspector of Education. The 'Old Boys' are so happy to have him still in their midst representing the 'oldest' among the teachers who have retired from the College.

The glorious manner in which the Central College expanded and adapted itself to the new conditions during the years 1908-1910, and the successful and efficient way in which it carried out its teaching work, both lectures and practicals, with excellent results, made some of the prominent educationists of those days wonder why Mysore should not have a University of its own! This idea gradually gathered momentum, and the case for establishing a 'University of Mysore' was most enthusiastically and convincingly put forward in public in the year 1912, by a distinguished 'Old Boy' of the College, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who was then the Chief Engineer in Mysore. In his Presidential Address on the occasion of the College Day that year, he said: "Progress in every country depends on the education of its people. Without education, we are a nation of children.... The causes of our low standard of living are obvious. The nearer we approach England and other foreign countries in respect of the proportion of educated people in the country, the greater will be our earning capacity and material progress.... You are aware that there has been talk for some time past of starting a University in Mysore. It has the active support of one of the highest officers of the State and I entirely agree with him. As was remarked by His Excellency the Viceroy in his recent speech on Dacca Uni-

versity 'the more such Universities are multiplied and distributed over India, the better it will be for the cause of Indian education and for the development of the moral character no less than of the intellectual ability of the students.... The population of Canada is scarcely 25 per cent more than that of Mysore and yet that country has 18 Universities. I do not see why we should not have at least one University in Mysore.... I have no doubt of the success of the scheme if we are assured of the continued interest of the leading educationists in the State."

Sir M. Visvesvaraya was soon elevated to the highest office in the State; and as Dewan and Head of the administration, one of the first things he did was naturally to take up in right earnest this idea of starting a University of Mysore. After a full consideration of all aspects of the matter by a high-powered committee of experts, the Government took the final decision to start the University and set up the necessary machinery to implement the proposal.

Accordingly the 'University of Mysore' was formally started in the year 1916 with *Rajamanthrapravina* H. V. Nanjundiah, M.A., M.L., C.I.E., then Member of Council in charge of Education as its first Vice-Chancellor, and Mr. Thomas Denham, M.A., who was formerly the Principal of the Maharaja's College, Mysore, as the first Registrar. A warm appreciation of the significant role played by Sir M. Visvesvaraya in bringing the Mysore University into existence was expressed by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore in the course of his Address to the first Convocation of the University in 1918. He said: "I feel that I should

acknowledge on this public occasion a debt of gratitude from myself and my people to Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the Dewan of my State. It was chiefly his patriotism, his enthusiasm and his unflinching advocacy which converted what was once a litue more than a dream into a living creation, and his name will always be remembered, above all others, as the man to whom our University owes its being."

In the year 1917, Mr. Tait retired after a most distinguished and memorable service in the Central College for 28 years; and in his place Dr. E. P. Metcalfe was appointed as the Principal of the College.

The starting of the Mysore University was an outstanding event in the progress of education in Mysore and opened another new 'era' in the history of the Central College which was immediately raised to the 'proud dignity' of becoming the premier University College of Science, which it has continued to be during all these subsequent 42 years. As soon as the University was started in 1916, there was a complete 'overhauling' of the Courses of Studies in Science to suit our own ideals and aspirations. The two chief features of this reorganisation were: (i) the splitting up of the 4-year post-S.S.L.C. course in the University for the first degree, into 1+3 instead of the old 2+2; and (ii) providing for higher specialisation in Science at the degree stage.

According to this new scheme the new one-year course, as soon as the boy entered the University after S.S.L.C. was given in the 'University Entrance' class which was opened as an extra class in some of the selected High Schools in the State

which became thus converted into what were known as ' Collegiate High Schools '. So far as Science students were concerned, they had to study during this Entrance course, 2 languages (English and Second Language) and 3 Optional Subjects taken in suitable and approved combinations. There was a University examination at the end of the year, and those that passed in it came over to the Central College for their degree course of 3 years' duration. Of these, the first year course was common to all the students; at the end of that year, there was a bifurcation, one leading to the B.Sc. degree and the other to the B.A. Based on the results in the examination at the end of the first year, only a very few students were selected on the basis of merit for B.Sc. which involved a high degree of specialisation in Science, while the others, the large majority, took the ordinary B.A. course; in fact the B.Sc. was the highest degree in Science offered by the University in those days. This reorganisation of studies involving more classes, higher specialisation, and larger numbers naturally necessitated an expansion and upgrading of all the teaching departments of the College. This was done quite rapidly under the able direction of the Principal, Dr. Metcalfe who was assisted by a band of highly qualified and enthusiastic Professors.

Just as this scheme was being worked and consolidated, Dr. Sir Brajendranath Seal, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc., the learned philosopher and eminent educationist of Calcutta, was appointed in 1921 as Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University. With his versatile scholarship and dynamic personality, Dr. Seal soon undertook the task of examining the entire structure and organisation of the new

University with a view to evolve a fuller and more satisfactory plan for its working conforming to the highest standards in University education both in India and abroad. Thus after two or three years of deliberation with the assistance of a specially constituted ' Reorganisation Committee ', he worked out a new administrative and academic framework for the University involving a number of important changes in its courses of studies. This new scheme came into effect in 1926 and had a profound effect on the working of the Central College which had to undertake the responsibility of directing and conducting the new Science courses throughout the University. According to this new scheme, the old one-year ' University Entrance ' course was abandoned as unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons; and in its place a 2-year Intermediate course both for Arts (I. A.) and Science (I.Sc.) was instituted, and separate Colleges known as the ' Intermediate Colleges ' working under the direct control of the University were brought into existence to take charge of the Intermediate classes. After the Intermediate, the Science students came over to the Central College for higher studies. There were two sets of Degree courses in Science in the College then.— (i) a 3-year course leading to the B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in one of the Science subjects taken as ' Major ' for which only some of the best students were admitted, the number of seats being strictly limited depending upon the accommodation and equipment available, and (ii) a 2-year course with 3 optional science subjects of equal standard for the remaining large majority leading to the B.Sc. (Pass) degree. A very high degree of specialisation in the Main subject was attained at the end of the Honours course;

and these students had to study, in addition to their usual subjects, one of the foreign languages (French or German) to help them in higher scientific research. The M.Sc. degree was also instituted in the University for the first time and was awarded on the basis of a University Examination after one year's further training after the B.Sc. (Hons.). This full scheme came into effect during the years 1928-33. The B.A. (Hons.) course in English which was till then confined to the Maharaja's College, was also introduced in the Central College a few years later and soon became quite popular and in 1954 M.A. classes were also started.

Side by side with this academic work, more and more facilities were also being provided for the students to participate in extra-curricular activities including games and sports. The University Union in Bangalore came into existence in its own building in the year 1930 and this facilitated a more intimate contact between the staff and students leading to a healthy and happy social life in the University. The Sports Activities became more extensive and popular. Scouting was also introduced, and a regular 'University Rover Corps' was organised in 1923 with Musketry training and instruction in First Aid as important parts of its activities.

Another notable feature of scientific education in the Central College at that time was the organisation of a number of 'Societies' as adjuncts to the several Science departments. Under the auspices of these Societies lectures by distinguished scientists were frequently arranged; and ample opportunities were also provided for the students to come forward and read papers dealing with their special subjects.

With a view to encourage such efforts on the part of students, special medals and prizes were instituted in the different subjects for being awarded every year to the best among such "student lecturers". The activities of these societies were exceedingly useful not only from the educational point of view, but also in promoting the social life in the College by creating opportunities for a free mingling of the staff and students outside the formal classroom. The English Department had a Seminar of its own with similar objects; and the Karnataka Sangha of the College with its high class journal "Prabudha Karnataka" started as far back as 1919 was already well known throughout the country by its pioneer work in the development of Kannada language and literature.

One can imagine the many sided efforts required in the Central College to accommodate and provide for all this expansion, especially in regard to the teaching of students for the new Honours and M.Sc. courses; and the College was fortunate in having a distinguished educationist and an able organiser like Dr. Metcalfe as its Principal during those difficult years. More buildings became urgently necessary, and accordingly a new Mathematics Block with spacious lecture halls and rooms for the Mathematics classes soon came into existence; with the subsequent addition of an equally spacious first floor for the building, it now provides all the required accommodation not only for the Mathematics classes but also for those in Languages. To provide for more students being admitted in Physics and Chemistry, the 'District Office' building on the other side of the road was acquired and converted into laboratories in 1924. The three

Natural Science Departments, however, had yet to continue in the old central block of the College although it was recognised that the accommodation available for them here was by no means adequate or satisfactory. As Principal Sell put it as far back as 1933 "A Natural Science block is becoming a great desideratum ; the Natural Sciences are cribbed, cabined, and confined in dark and overcrowded quarters some of which, not so long ago, had a tired feeling about them and wanted to sit down." It, however, took another 20 years for the new 'Natural Science Block' to materialise.

Due to Dr. Metcalfe's untiring zeal, and with the full support of Dr. Seal, the new courses of studies in Science were established on sound and solid foundations, and the Central College developed into one of the best known University Science Colleges in India. The distinguished Professors who were in charge of the different Departments in the College during those years also naturally played a notable part in bringing about this rapid and striking progress. Among these may be mentioned Professors, B. Venkateshachar, and A. Venkata Rao Telang in Physics ; Dr. F. L. Usher, Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. B. Sanjeeva Rao, Dr. B. L. Manjunath and Dr. C. Srikantia, in Chemistry ; Prof. K. S. K. Iyengar in Mathematics ; Prof. P. Sampat Iyengar in Geology ; Prof. C. R. Narayana Rao in Zoology ; Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran in Botany, and Professors F. R. Sell and E. G. McAlpine in English. Special mention should also be made here to the outstanding contribution for the growth of Kannada literature made by Messrs. A. R. Krishnasastry and T. S. Venkaniah, who were Heads of the Kannada

Department in the College during the years 1915-1927. These two indefatigable and enthusiastic workers who were themselves well known critics and writers in those days have moulded the new school of scholars, speakers and writers in Kannada. In more recent years this work devolved upon their successors in the College, Messrs. V. Seetharamiah and G. P. Rajarathnam.

In the year 1925, Prof. M. T. Narayana Iyengar retired after a meritorious service of about 35 years in the Central College, and in his place, Mr. K. S. K. Iyengar who had just returned from abroad after a distinguished career, was appointed Professor of Mathematics.

It was unfortunate for the College that Dr. Usher who was responsible for starting and organising the Chemistry Department of the College and had already developed it into an active centre of research, resigned in 1926 and went back to England to serve in one of the Universities there. The Chemistry Department soon sustained another serious loss in the premature death of Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao in 1928 while he was still in the prime of his official career. In his place, Dr. B. L. Manjunath was appointed as Professor of Organic Chemistry.

Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao was a distinguished Organic Chemist, and started several lines of research in that subject. He spent the whole day—from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.—in the College and was busy throughout doing something or other useful to the college and its students. In addition to his academic duties as a Professor, he took a most prominent part in all aspects of the working of the College

and was the 'life and soul' of its Sports activities. After his death, his students, colleagues and admirers who wanted to perpetuate his memory in the University instituted several Shields in his name as Rolling Trophies for the promotion of Inter-Collegiate proficiency in sports, games, and athletics in the University. The 'M. G. S. Tournaments' as they are now popularly called, organised by the University every year in this connection are well-known, and these tournaments have played a most important part in advancing the cause of healthy rivalry and good sportsmanship among the staff and students belonging to the different University Institutions all over Mysore. It is also gratifying to note that his son, Mr. M. G. Vijayasathy, who was one of the best known sportsmen of the College in his days, has been in charge of conducting these tournaments as Director of Physical Education in the University for the past 20 years.

A very important and vital aspect of University education which received special attention and encouragement during that time was that concerned with 'Research'. Dr. Seal was never tired of impressing on the staff of the University the importance of research work as part of their essential qualifications and training; and he gave every possible support and recognition for this type of work. So far as the Sciences were concerned, Dr. Metcalfe, himself a distinguished scientist, had already emphasised this point in the Central College more than once, and ample provision was now made to give all facilities and encouragement for research work in the different Sciences. Under this favourable atmosphere, the Central College soon developed into a

first rate centre of scientific research and was recognised as such throughout India. Several of the Professors had acquired an All-India reputation and many of the younger and brilliant members of the staff did excellent work in their chosen fields of specialisation on the basis of which they obtained the D.Sc. degree not only of the Mysore University but also of other universities outside like Calcutta and Madras.

It must however be remembered that all this expansion and reorganisation gave rise to certain difficult problems, of which the most acute was the problem of 'overcrowding' in the Central College, with the increasing demand from the public for Science education. Even so early as 1923 Dr. E. P. Metcalfe referred to this in one of his College Day speeches and pointed out the real difficulties experienced in accommodating all who applied for admission. He said: "This institution has gradually expanded under internal pressure. This pressure is now very high and something will have to be done to relieve it." In course of time this problem became more and more formidable and is even today the most difficult of the problems facing the University so far as its Science courses are concerned. From about the year 1925 onwards, in response to public demand more and more High Schools were being opened every year all over the State; and in each of them more than 75 per cent of the students took the 'Optional Science' group for their S.S.L.C. This meant that a very large majority of the S.S.L.C. passed candidates were Science men, and they had to be provided with Science courses in the Intermediate. When the new Intermediate scheme came into existence

in 1928, there were only two Intermediate Colleges, one in Bangalore and the other in Mysore, accommodating about 1500 students between them; of these nearly 1200 were Science students. The time soon came when these two colleges reached their 'over-saturation' point and the only course open to admit the ever increasing number of students was to start more Intermediate Colleges at several other centres in the State. With more of these Intermediate Colleges coming up, the number of I.Sc. students was increasing very fast, and a correspondingly increasing number of students that passed the I.Sc. came over to the Central College for higher studies; and the Central College was the only College in those days providing for degree courses in Science.

A significant fact which should also be noted in this connection is the large number of girls among the students seeking admission to the Central College. In the earlier years, till about 1916 (the year in which the Mysore University was started), the total number of lady students in the College in any year was only about 3 or 4; after 1916 the number gradually increased, and the College had actually about 97 lady students on its rolls in the year 1957.

With the large increase in the number of students during these years, the Sports activities of the College had also by this time expanded enormously, and a separate Physical Culture Committee, with the Principal as Chairman, came to be appointed every year to organise and conduct these activities. In addition to Tennis, Cricket, Football, and Hockey, other games like Basketball Volleyball, etc., were also introduced and became quite popular. The College teams in these games

have participated in all the important Inter-Collegiate and Inter-University tournaments in and outside Bangalore, and done very well in many of them. Several senior members of the staff had been all along taking an active part in the promotion of these games and sports, and among them special mention may be made of Mr. M. Sesha Iyengar, Mr. C. K. Sundarachar, Dr. C. S. Pichamuthu, and Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao, Mr. M. G. Vijaya-sarathi and Mr. M. R. Ramanna have been actually in direct charge of the sports activities of the college for quite a number of years, and have spared no pains to maintain the highest possible standards throughout.

Thus the pressure on the Central College began to increase at an 'accelerating rate' and the position became more and more unbearable. Another feature of the work in the Central College in those days which made the situation more serious was the fact that the College was bound to provide the necessary facilities for the conduct of Practical Classes in its laboratories to students of other Government institutions which required them as part of their course; *e.g.*, the Engineering College, the Silver Jubilee Technological Institute, and the Medical School. Although the B.Sc. (Pass) course classes for girls were transferred from the Central College and became part of the Maharani's College in the year 1945, these lady students continued to come here for their Practical Classes as they had no separate laboratories of their own. Thus, as the number of admissions in these other institutions went on increasing year after year, the corresponding demand 'from that side' on the Central College was also increasing.

PRINCIPALS



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(1934-1937)
Subsequently Vice-Chancellor



A. B. MACKINTOSH, ESQ.
(1937-1942)



DR. A. SUBBA RAO
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DR. B. SANJIVA RAO
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PRINCIPALS



DR. B. L. MANJUNATH
(1948-1950)
Subsequently Vice-Chancellor



SRI L. RAMIA RAO
(1947-1948 and 1950-1953)



DR. B. S. MADHAVA RAO
(1953-1955)



SRI S. B. BONDADE
(1955—)

It was of course impossible for the buildings and equipment to expand at the same rate as the inflow of students year after year, and all sorts of *ad hoc* measures had therefore to be adopted from time to time to meet the situation within the limits of the facilities available; for example, the duration of the Practical Classes for the B.Sc. (Pass) courses was reduced from 3 to 2½ hours, and later even to 2 hours; the number of students working at a time in each batch was considerably increased; the working hours of the College were extended at both ends so that the classes worked from 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. with only a short interval; and even when all these changes were not enough, a regular 'Shift System' in the working of the College had to be introduced, according to which one set of students attended the College and had their classes from 7-30 to 11-30 A.M. while the second shift worked from 11 A.M. to 5-30 P.M., and the College was working like this on all days in the week except Sundays. All these changes were admittedly unsatisfactory and raised several 'new problems' of their own in the administration of the College. The only satisfactory solution to deal with the situation was the opening of more First Grade Colleges in the State providing for the B.Sc. (Pass) degree course in Science: this was done in the year 1947. This eased the situation in the Central College to some extent, but it continued to be 'overfull' all the time even afterwards. Most of these problems had to be tackled in the initial stages by Dr. Metcalfe when he was the Principal of the College from 1918-1929, and the manner in which he solved them quietly and efficiently without any serious dislocation of work bears eloquent testimony to his powers of orga-

nisation and administration. After 1929 when he became the Vice-Chancellor in succession to Dr. Seal, he was called upon to deal with these problems in the wider context of the whole University. With his first hand knowledge and experience of University education in Mysore, ever since the inception of the University, and with the wholehearted co-operation of the successive Principals and Professors in the Central College, he was able to make the necessary adjustments and readjustments from time to time so as not to seriously affect the progress of University education in the State.

Thus the three outstanding persons who played the most important part in the history of the College during its most crucial periods, and contributed to its development, within fifty years, into the first rate college which it is today are: Dr. Cook, Mr. Tait, and Dr. Metcalfe. Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan, appropriately referred to them as the 'Big Three' of the College in his Presidential Address on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, and paid a glowing tribute to their services as follows: "These three have done a great deal to make the College what it is. It is difficult to sum up all that Mysore owes to them. In the Sciences and in the Humanities, in critical discernment and in constructive learning, in the encouragement of games and sports and in the enforcement of discipline and the moulding of character, in inspiration as well as in sympathy, in attention to the minutest detail that would add to efficiency or comfort as well as in the great principles and policies that would plan and build for the future, they have rendered a service of priceless value to higher education in Mysore, a service which can never be forgotten."

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(1948-1950)
Subsequently Vice-Chancellor



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It was of course impossible for the buildings, staff and equipment to expand at the same rate as the inflow of students year after year, and all sorts of *ad hoc* measures had therefore to be adopted from time to time to meet the situation within the limits of the facilities available; for example, the duration of the Practical Classes for the B.Sc. (Pass) courses was reduced from 3 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and later even to 2 hours; the number of students working at a time in each batch was considerably increased; the working hours of the College were extended at both ends so that the classes worked from 10-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. with only a short interval; and even when all these changes were not enough, a regular 'Shift System' in the working of the College had to be introduced, according to which one set of students attended the College and had their classes from 7-30 to 11-30 A.M. while the second shift worked from 11 A.M. to 5-30 P.M., and the College was working like this on all days in the week except Sundays. All these changes were admittedly unsatisfactory and raised several 'new problems' of their own in the administration of the College. The only satisfactory solution to deal with the situation was the opening of more First Grade Colleges in the State providing for the B.Sc. (Pass) degree course in Science; this was done in the year 1947. This eased the situation in the Central College to some extent, but it continued to be 'overfull' all the time even afterwards. Most of these problems had to be tackled in the initial stages by Dr. Metcalfe when he was the Principal of the College from 1918-1929, and the manner in which he solved them quietly and efficiently without any serious dislocation of work bears eloquent testimony to his powers of orga-

nisation and administration. After 1929 when he became the Vice-Chancellor in succession to Dr. Seal, he was called upon to deal with these problems in the wider context of the whole University. With his first hand knowledge and experience of University education in Mysore, ever since the inception of the University, and with the wholehearted co-operation of the successive Principals and Professors in the Central College, he was able to make the necessary adjustments and readjustments from time to time so as not to seriously affect the progress of University education in the State.

Thus the three outstanding persons who played the most important part in the history of the College during its most crucial periods, and contributed to its development, within fifty years, into the first rate college which it is today are: Dr. Cook, Mr. Tait, and Dr. Metcalfe. Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan, appropriately referred to them as the 'Big Three' of the College in his Presidential Address on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, and paid a glowing tribute to their services as follows: "These three have done a great deal to make the College what it is. It is difficult to sum up all that Mysore owes to them. In the Sciences and in the Humanities, in critical discernment and in constructive learning, in the encouragement of games and sports and in the enforcement of discipline and the moulding of character, in inspiration as well as in sympathy, in attention to the minutest detail that would add to efficiency or comfort as well as in the great principles and policies that would plan and build for the future, they have rendered a service of priceless value to higher education in Mysore, a service which can never be forgotten."

After Dr. Metcalfe became the Vice-Chancellor in 1929, Prof. F. R. Sell became the Principal of the Central College and functioned as such for about five years. As a Professor of English in the College for nearly 25 years, he had already endeared himself to all his students by his kindness, simplicity, and more than all by his sense of humour. His classes were always most interesting and entertaining; his exposition of some of the scenes and situations in the novels and dramas which he was teaching was often quite 'picturesque', 'dramatic', and even 'theatrical'. He possessed an excellent personal library and was good enough to place it freely at the disposal of the students for consultation and reference. He wanted his boys to be always 'buoyant, cheerful, energetic, and good humoured'. As Principal for five years, Mr. Sell brought his unique gifts "to enrich the life and traditions of the College."

It was in Principal Sell's time that the University Union, Bangalore, came into existence. Although the Union Building was completed nearly ten years before, the Government had taken it over, due to exigencies of administration, to locate some of the law courts. It was in the year 1930 that the building was restored to the University, and the task of organising the Union devolved on Mr. Sell. This work was entrusted to a Working Committee with Prof. C. R. Narayana Rao as the President; and within the next two years, the Union was put on a firm and satisfactory basis according to its own Constitution and Rules as approved by the University. Membership of the Union was compulsory for the staff and students of the Central and Engineering Colleges. With the rapidly growing number of stu-

dents in each of these colleges within the next twenty years the Union became rather unwieldy, and it was difficult to provide all the necessary amenities on the required scale. The University therefore thought it better for each College to have an Association of its own, and thus the common University Union in Bangalore ceased to function as such in the year 1952. The main portion of the Union building was then utilised for accommodating the Law College; and the other portion on the western side was remodelled and converted into a Gymnasium which was newly started for the use of the University students in Bangalore.

In the year 1932 Mr. P. Sampat Iyengar who was Professor of Geology since 1920 and was later working both as Professor of Geology and Director of the Mysore Geological Department since 1927, went on long leave preparatory to retirement; and in his place, Mr. L. Rama Rao was appointed as Professor of Geology in the College.

After the retirement of Prof. Sell, Prof. E. G. McAlpine succeeded him as Principal. Mr. McAlpine's first appointment was as the Professor of English in the Central College in the year 1914, and he was working here continuously as such till 1941 except for brief periods of about a year when he had gone out to work as Inspector of Schools in the Cantonment area, and later for a couple of years as the Director of Public Instruction in Travancore. Prof. B. M. Srikantiah of Mysore who was well-known as an eminent scholar both in English and Kannada also came over to the Central College at about this time as Professor

of English. He was much respected by everybody as a distinguished writer and speaker in both the languages, and his presence here gave a great fillip to the development of the English and Kannada departments. He was 'a tower of strength' to both the English Seminar and the Karnataka Sangha, and rendered valuable services to the advancement of the study of languages in the Central College.

As Principal, Mr. McAlpine was a man for 'rules and regulations' in everything, and believed in 'mechanising', as it were, the administration of the whole College.

A notable event in the history of the College during his Principalship was the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee in the year 1935, marking the 60 years of its existence as a 'First Grade College'. It was naturally a great occasion in the annals of the College, and the celebration which lasted for three days was a great success from all points of view. His Highness the Yuvaraja of Mysore, Sri Kantirava Narasimharaja Wadiyar Bahadur, who was then the Pro-Chancellor of the Mysore University, inaugurated the celebrations at an impressive function held on 6th December 1935. In the course of his address, His Highness referred to many important aspects of University education in Mysore and paid a special tribute to the role played by the Central College in its progress and development. He specially emphasised the fact that "neither majestic buildings, nor spacious playgrounds, nor books, nor societies, nor scientific apparatus, can alone make a College. They are the body of it, but the soul of it is to be found in the men who teach and the men who learn". Referring to the increasing number of students in the College, he

observed: "My one fear for the future of your Alma Mater is that she is becoming too popular, and that, if the numbers continue to grow as they have been growing of late years, one result will be that you will lose the spirit of comradeship between the teacher and the taught that has done so much for her in the past. Indeed, it is a wonderful testimony to the character of the men who have ruled over her destinies that this spirit should have existed so long." He concluded by saying: "If the Central College has taught you who have passed through it not only to earn your livings, but to be sportsmen, gentlemen and good citizens, I hope you will agree that it is up to you, on this occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the College to do what lies in your power to pass on that spirit to future generations."

The next day, on 7th December 1935, a big Assembly of the past and present students was held under the chairmanship of the Dewan, Sir Mirza Mohamed Ismail,—himself a most distinguished 'Old Boy' of the College. In the course of his Presidential Address, he briefly reviewed the history of the College and specially referred to the "succession of devoted and eminent Principals and a noble band of teachers and Professors, most of whom have been old pupils of the College, who have laboured for the good name of the College and enlightenment of the country; and we see the fruits of their labours in the high position and wide fame that the Central College has achieved today among the educational institutions of India."

In commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee, a beautiful Sports Pavilion was built overlooking the magnificent playgrounds behind the Hostel, which the

College had just then acquired. This was largely due to the personal interest taken by Sir Mirza himself; in fact when the Managing Committee of the C. C. O. B. A. met him in connection with the proposal, he said: "I am ready and willing to do anything which enhances the prestige, the importance, and the good reputation of my Old College." Such was the affection with which he, and many other Old Boys like him, looked upon their Alma Mater.

In the year 1937 the College lost the services of two of its senior and distinguished Professors, by the retirement of Rao Bahadur B. Venkateshachar and Prof. C. R. Narayana Rao, both of whom had played a notable part in the advancement of the College in their respective fields. In these vacancies, Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao, who was the Professor of Physics in the Annamalai University, and Dr. A. Subba Rao, who was working as Professor of Physiology in the Mysore Medical College, were appointed Professors of Physics and Zoology respectively. It was Prof. C. R. Narayana Rao who first started the 'free Canteen' for the poor students of the College; this has all along been serving a very useful purpose and has now become a permanent feature of the College, and an increasingly large number of students are being helped in this manner with the aid of generous grants from the University. A few years later in 1941 another senior Professor of the College, Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran also retired, and in his place Dr. L. Narayana Rao became the Professor of Botany. After the sudden and premature death of Prof. K. S. K. Iyengar in 1944, Dr. C. N. Srinivasa Iyengar came over to the Central College as Professor of Mathe-

matics, and Prof. B. S. Madhava Rao became the Head of the Department. In the year 1943, Dr. B. L. Manjunath left the College temporarily to take up a post in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, and in his place, Mr. H. Subba Jois was appointed as Professor of Organic Chemistry.

Prof. E. G. McAlpine became the Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1941; he was succeeded as Principal of the Central College by Prof. A. B. Mackintosh who was all along the Professor of English in the Maharaja's College, Mysore. Mr. Mackintosh was thus new to the Central College and its special problems. He however rose to the occasion and by his quiet and persuasive methods managed to tackle these problems to the best of his abilities. Nothing in the College seemed to worry him; not that he was so easy going; but he had a 'detached' way of looking at things and dealing with the situations as and when they arose. He was endowed with a very nice sense of humour and it was always a pleasure to deal with him. Prof. Mackintosh retired from service in the year 1943; in subsequent years, Professors B. Nagesha Rao, K. Anantharamiah, A. N. Murthy Rao and M. E. Bharathraja Singh have been in charge of the English Department of the College from time to time.

In the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Mackintosh, Dr. A. Subba Rao, who was then the Professor of Zoology, was appointed as Principal of the College. This appointment was specially notable for two reasons; he was the first Indian to be appointed as the Principal of the Central College on a permanent basis, and he was also the first 'Old Boy' of the

College to become its Principal. The problem of 'overcrowding' in the College had by then assumed serious proportions, and the main task of the Principal and the Professors at the time was to devise ways and means of dealing with the situation. Another factor which made the position even more difficult then was the opening in 1944 of the 'Commerce Section' as part of the Central College, with a four-year course leading up to the B.Com. degree, with Mr. S. R. Mandre as the first Professor of Commerce; there were about 500 students undergoing this course and all their classes had to be provided for in the College. This was managed with great difficulty by making those classes work in the mornings between 7-30 and 11-30 A.M.—all the rooms in the Mathematics Block being made available to them for the purpose during those hours. This continued for about five years, when in 1948 a separate building was provided for it elsewhere, and the 'Commerce Section' began to function as an independent institution as a 'College of Commerce' in the University.

In the year 1943, the University decided to improve the status of the Intermediate College, Bangalore, and make it independent of the Central College, by appointing a separate Principal for it in place of the old 'Superintendent'; and accordingly Prof. L. Rama Rao was appointed as its first Principal. In his place as Professor of Geology, Dr. C. S. Pichamuthu who was then working as the Registrar of the University was appointed as Professor. Three years later, in 1946, Prof. Rama Rao came back to the Central College as Professor of Geology, and Dr. Pichamuthu became the Principal of the Intermediate College. Mr. A. Venkata Rao

Telang, Professor of Physics, retired from service in 1943 and in his place Prof. S. B. Bondade, who was then working as a Professor in the Presidency College, Madras, was appointed Professor of Physics in the Central College.

On the retirement of Dr. A. Subba Rao in 1945, Dr. B. R. Seshachar was appointed as Professor of Zoology and Dr. B. Sanjeeva Rao became the Principal of the College. Dr. B. Sanjeeva Rao was the Principal for about two years; in June 1947 he went on long leave preparatory to retirement, and Dr. B. L. Manjunath, Professor of Chemistry, whose services were loaned to the Government of India and was then working in Delhi, was appointed Principal of the College in August 1948. During the intervening 15 months, Prof. L. Rama Rao, Professor of Geology, was acting as the Principal. In July 1950, Dr. Manjunath became the Vice-Chancellor of the University; and in his place Prof. L. Rama Rao was appointed permanent Principal of the College, and he continued as such till he retired from service in April 1953. During this period, Messrs. N. Venkatanarasimhachar and H. Ramaswami Iyengar were working as Professors of Chemistry for some time. After Prof. Rama Rao's retirement, Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao, Professor of Mathematics, succeeded him as Principal of the College and occupied the office till his retirement in 1955.

We have now come to comparatively recent times in the history of the College and most of the younger 'Old Boys' of the College are personally familiar with the activities and progress of the institution in these days. There is therefore hardly any need to go into the details

pertaining to these ten years, since they have no 'historical' value yet, as such ; a brief reference may however be made to some of the important developments in the College during this period.

An important event in the history of the College during these recent years was the inauguration in 1948 of the National Cadet Corps in the College as part of the plan of the Government of India to provide for such training in all the Universities in the country. In the Mysore University the N.C.C. training was first confined only to two centres—Bangalore and Mysore ; the scheme soon became exceedingly popular and came to be recognised as an important adjunct to University life. In response to the growing popularity, the N.C.C. in the University has been considerably expanded within the last five years and there are as many as 12 units of the N.C.C. including 4 special units for girls and four others—Air squadron N.C.C. ; Engineer Platoon N.C.C. ; Medical Company, and Naval Wing—now working at different centres in the University.

A notable addition to the imposing buildings of the College was made in the year 1949 when the new Natural Science Block which was long 'overdue' was added. It was at first intended to be a three-storeyed building to accommodate the three Natural Science Departments ; but actually only two floors have now been built, and these have been occupied by the Zoology and Botany Sections. The Geology Department is still going on in the old rooms of the main block, and it is hoped that it will also soon acquire a new habitation for itself to suit its growing requirements.

During the last few years, a number of Research Scholarships and Fellowships for advanced studies in Science are being offered by the University, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, and the National Institute of Sciences. These were tenable in the Central College and many of our brilliant students have been the recipients of these scholarships ; and as research scholars, they did very good work under the guidance of their respective Professors and published quite a number of papers in the leading scientific journals both in India and abroad. With a view to give academic recognition for such work, the Mysore University introduced the Ph.D. Degree in 1950, and during these 8 years as many as 16 candidates from the Central College have secured this Doctorate Degree. The introduction of Ph.D. has also given a great impetus to scientific research in the College which is now being actively pursued in all the Departments.

With the retirement of Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao in 1955, Prof. S. B. Bondade became the Principal of the College and is holding that office today when the Institution is celebrating its Centenary. The other Professors in the College at present are : Dr. S. Ramaswamy (Physics) ; Dr. G. Narayan, Dr. S. Siddappa, Dr. M. Shadaksharaswamy (Chemistry) ; Prof. P. H. Nagappa, Dr. S. V. Keshava Hegde (Mathematics) ; Dr. B. R. Seshachar (Zoology) ; Dr. K. N. Narayan (Botany) ; Prof. M. R. Srinivasa Rao (Geology i/c) and Prof. O. K. Nambiar (English).

During the last 10 to 12 years the number of students coming to the Central

College for higher studies has been increasing so fast every year that practically all the time and energy of the Principal and Professors are taken away in dealing with the numerous and varied administrative and academic problems that arise in the day-to-day administration of the College. The admission to the Honours and M.Sc. classes has practically trebled itself during the last 3 or 4 years. The strength of the College today has reached the colossal figure of 2066, excluding the students from other institutions who continue to come here for their Practical Classes, and the College is now actually working on all the days in the week from 7-30 A.M. to 7-30 P.M. !

The question of reorganising the entire pattern of University education in India is now actively engaging the attention of the Union Government, and they have recently set up a high-powered 'University Grants Commission' under the distinguished Chairmanship of Mr. C. D. Deshmukh to examine the position in all its aspects in the several Universities of the country and make suitable financial grants to enable their proper development and expansion to fulfil their purpose as true Universities. During these two years this Commission has visited practically all the Universities in India and after a careful consideration of the needs of the country and resources available, they have chalked out the lines on which University education should progress hereafter according to a uniform 'Plan' for teaching and organisation to be adopted by all the Universities. The Mysore University has naturally come into its purview, and the entire courses of studies obtaining here during these 30 years ever since Dr. Seal's reorganisation, have

been just revised to fit into the pattern laid down by the University Grants Commission. The two important changes thus effected are : (i) the splitting up of the 4 year post S.S.L.C. course for a first Degree into 1+3 (as indeed was the case in 1916 when the Mysore University was started), the first year being called the 'Pre-University' course, and the next three years being the actual duration of the course in the University for the B.Sc. degree, with a certain amount of specialisation in two of the optional sciences ; and (ii) the abolition of the 'Honours' courses in Science. The Central College is now busy trying to readjust itself to these new conditions. It is gratifying to note that the Mysore University has already secured financial assistance from the University Grants Commission for effecting these changes to the extent of Rs. 18.6 lakhs of which Rs. 37,500 is earmarked for the Central College. There is no doubt that a close and careful over-all scrutiny and direction of University education from a body of the status of the 'University Grants Commission' coupled with their willingness to give the necessary financial help whenever and wherever required, will go a long way in establishing and maintaining the highest standards of University education in our country, comparable with the best similar institutions in other parts of the world.

This in brief is the history of the Central College during the hundred years of its existence. It is not a 'history' in the narrow sense of the word—a chronological statement of events with names and dates ; such an account by itself would be rather dry and insipid. It is also not possible in the course of a short article like this to a 'Souvenir' to mention all

the details in the growth of this College during this long period. All that has been done here is to give a sort of a 'panoramic review' of the progress of this institution during these hundred years, with suitable emphasis on the 'highlights' of the picture, the details necessary to complete the picture may be gathered from the chapters in the succeeding pages of this Souvenir, dealing separately with the history of the different Departments of the College and their academic and extra-curricular activities. It is hoped that the present review will serve to give the readers—especially the past and present students of the College—an idea of the manner in which their Alma Mater has grown up during these 100 years so as to occupy the enviable position which it does today among the 'University Science Colleges' in India.

In the course of this long period several generations of students have passed through this College and many of them have attained the highest positions in their professions throughout India, bringing credit to themselves and glory to their Alma Mater; even a mere enumeration of their names would fill several pages. The most prominent among them is Dr. Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who is the oldest 'Old Boy' of the College, still happily amidst us, whose name is well known throughout the country as the greatest 'engineer-statesman' of the present century, and who may appropriately be described as the 'Architect of Modern Mysore'. Then we have Sir Mirza Mohamed Ismail, whose valuable services to the State as its Dewan for a period of 14 years are still remembered with affection

and gratitude; it was as a result of his endeavours that Mysore came to be recognised as the 'Model State' in India. To crown them all, the Central College has the proud and enviable distinction of having produced an 'Old Boy' who has rendered signal service to the cause of our country and rose to be the first Indian Governor-General of Free India, and who still commands the highest regard and respect throughout the world for his wise counsels and sagacious statesmanship. It is most appropriate that he,—Sri C. Rajagopalachari,—should occupy the Presidential Chair today to guide and conduct the Centenary Celebrations of his Alma Mater.

After looking at this past history, one is naturally tempted to take a peep into the future and speculate as to what the College will be like after another hundred years of its existence. Forecasting the future in a matter like this is by no means an easy task; but judged by the trends in the history of the College during all these years, one may perhaps feel sure that sooner or later in its future, this Institution will develop into an independent University by itself devoted essentially to the advancement of Scientific Study and Research and building up rich and inspiring traditions of the kind which we associate with the University of Cambridge.

May the Central College grow and develop into an Institution like that by the time it celebrates its Bicentenary a hundred years hence!

L. RAMA RAO

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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS—PROFESSORS



Rao Bahadur B. VENKTESHACHAR



SRI B. VENKATANARANAPPA



SRI A. VENKATA RAO TELANG



DR. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO

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SRI B. VENKATANARANAPPA



SRI A. VENKATA RAO TELANG



DR. S. PANACHANDRA RAO

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS —PROFESSORS



DR. S. RAMASWAMY



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS—STAFF, 1958

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENTS

PHYSICS

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, ONE OF THE oldest in the Central College has been in existence from 1882 when Mr. J. Cook was appointed as Principal and Professor of Physics. On his retirement in 1908 Mr. E. P. Metcalfe, an old student of Sir J. J. Thomson was appointed as Professor of Physics. It was in the early days of the tenure of Prof. Metcalfe that the present building housing the Physics Department was ably planned, constructed and equipped. Later in 1916, the Mysore University was founded and it might be said that this event gave an impetus to scientific training and research. The first papers by Prof. Metcalfe and Mr. B. Venkatesachar on important topics in spectroscopy appeared in the Proceedings of the Royal Society. Prof. Metcalfe was also awarded the D.Sc. degree of the London University. This led to the establishment of a school of spectroscopic research in this Department centering round Prof. B. Venkatesachar and his co-workers. With the elevation of Prof. Metcalfe as Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University in 1929, Prof. B. Venkatesachar became the head of the Physics Department which post he held

till his retirement in 1937. The introduction of the Honours courses as also the Mathematical bias given to the teaching of advanced Physics took place during this period. Original research in Physics was conducted under the following heads, (a) Atomic Spectra, (b) Raman Effect, (c) Band Spectra, (d) Atmospheric Electricity, (e) Magnetic susceptibility. Professor Venkatesachar was very ably assisted by his Colleagues Sriyuts L. Sibaiya, T. S. Subbaraya and H. S. Venkataramaiah.

Prof. A. Venkata Rao Telang was the Head of the department from 1937 till his retirement in 1943. Prior to taking charge of the Department he was interested in Atmospheric Electricity. His work on the electrical conductivity of the air enabled him to collaborate with the International Polar Year Committee of 1932-33. He started a wireless section and introduced wireless as a special subject for M.Sc.

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Technology, Pasadena, U. S. A. on deputation (1939-41). There he carried out researches on the scattering of neutrons in deuterium. In 1948 he was appointed Principal and Professor of Physics of the First Grade College, Tumkur. Sri N. Parameswaran acted as Professor during Sri Sundarachar's absence during 1939-41. In 1943 Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao was appointed as Professor and Head of the Department while in 1944 Prof. S. B. Bondade took charge as the other Professor. Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao continued his researches on magnetic susceptibility begun earlier at the Annamalai University where he was Professor of Physics. The magnetic susceptibility of metallic crystals was studied as also that of a few gemstones and minerals. "Some aspects of crystal Magnetism" was the subject of his Presidential Address to the Physics Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1952. Sm. M. Leela who collaborated with him as a G.O.I. Scholar was awarded the Ph. D. degree of the Mysore University in 1954.

Progress in spectroscopic work and allied topics were maintained by Sri L. Sibaiya and a number of other members of staff collaborating with him. This resulted in the publication of a large number of papers in the Proceedings of the Indian Academy and other journals. Sri L. Sibaiya was awarded the D.Sc. Degree of the Madras University in 1940. He is at present principal and Professor of Physics, Yuvaraja's College, Mysore. Sri T. S. Subbaraya was engaged in the study of bands of Cadmium iodide and mercury iodide in collaboration with a few other members of staff. He also studied the spark spectrum of mercury leading to an accurate determination of

its levels. He was awarded the D.Sc. degree of the Mysore University in 1944. Under his guidance Sm. Y. V. Indira Bai, University Research Fellow, developed a good technique for the photometry of spectral lines. He is at present Principal and Professor of Physics, First Grade College, Tumkur. The wireless section started by Prof. Telang continued to flourish in the charge of Sri R. L. Narasimhaiya. During the war, this section was approached by the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India for the preparation of designs for medium power transmitter chokes and for devising quick methods of testing them. This assignment was completed in 3 months and earned the appreciation of Government. Researches on the power factor of indigenous dielectrics at audio and high radio frequencies were also conducted with the help of a G. O. I. scholar.

An X-ray section was started in the Department by Dr. S. Ramaswamy (1938) for training M.Sc. students with X-rays as a special subject. Later a G. O. I. scholar Sri T. G. Shamanna was taken for work in this section. He worked on X-ray studies of silver amalgams and is at present in charge of the research and testing laboratory of the Ambernath Prototype Machine Tool Factory. Dr. S. Rama Swamy was transferred to Tumkur as Professor of Physics in 1951. Dr. B. V. Raghavendra Rao and Sri D. S. Subbaramaiah conducted investigations on the propagation of hypersonic and ultrasonic waves in substances. These investigations throw some light on the problem of dispersion of acoustic velocity.

During the time of Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao and Professor S. B. Bondade there

has been a phenomenal growth in the strengths of all classes inclusive of Honours and M.Sc. In 1938 the total number of staff members was about 10, whereas today there are 20 members and 3 or 4 more are needed. Whereas in 1938 there were 2 M.Sc. students, about a dozen in each of the three years of the honours classes and 2 sections in each of the two B.Sc. (Pass) classes with about a hundred in each section, to-day there are 26 students in M.Sc., and 32 in each of the second and third years of the Honours classes. There are 5 sections in Senior B.Sc., and 7 sections in the Junior B.Sc., with a hundred in each section. In addition there are about 150 in the First year of the newly started three-year degree course. There are thus about 1,500 students in all today, as against 438 in 1938. There is thus a great strain on the Laboratories, equipment and staff of the Department hampering opportunities for research.

With the retirement of Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao (1954), Prof. S. B. Bondade became the Head of the department and Dr. S. Rama Swamy, Professor of Physics at Tumkur, was transferred as the other Professor. From 1955, when Prof. Bondade became Principal of the College, Dr. S. Rama Swamy has been in charge of the Department. From this time, there has been a further development of the Wireless and X-ray Sections due to grants and other facilities received from a number of sources like the University Grants Commission, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the India Government. A nuclear Physics section was also started and equipped. The Department is now well equipped for post-graduate training and research in X-rays, Nuclear Phy-

sics, Wireless and Spectroscopy. These four subjects are also the special subjects for the M.Sc. degree.

Research in Nuclear Physics and Cosmic Rays was conducted by two G. O. I. Scholars, Sri K. V. Krishna Iyengar and Smt. C. Dhanalakshmi under the guidance of Prof. Bondade. Bi-, tri- and quadri-partition of Uranium by neutrons from a Ra-Be mixture was studied. The results obtained were checked against neutrons of cosmic ray origin. Sri Krishna Iyengar has since been taken on the research staff of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

Research in X-rays was carried out by Srimathi B. V. Savithramma on a University Fellowship under the direction of Dr. S. Rama Swamy. The structure of alloys with special reference to silver-mercury systems was undertaken. Silver amalgams of various concentrations were studied. Single crystals of one of the phases were grown and the structure investigated in detail by taking Wiessenberg rotation photographs. The phase variation of silver amalgam with temperature has also been investigated. A paper on this topic has been published in the Mysore University Journal while another is under publication in the same journal.

A research scheme on the X-ray study of amalgams and alloys sponsored by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was started in 1956 by Dr. S. Rama Swamy. The C.S.I.R. appointed Sri H. N. Venkoba Rao (now Senior Scientific Assistant at the Electro-Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi) as a Junior Research Assistant. The variation in the structure of different phases of gold

amalgams with varying concentrations has been studied. A paper on this topic has been published in the Mysore University Journal while a second one is under publication. The equipment and apparatus for these researches on X-rays was purchased partly from U. G. C. grants and partly from a grant to Dr. S. Rama Swamy by the Government of India in the scheme for helping individual research workers.

Dr. P. S. Venkataswamy Setty, National Research Fellow, has been engaged in research on the effect of light on electrodeless discharges in gases and vapours. Sri T. Sundarachary, G. O. I., Senior Research Scholar has set up an apparatus for studying nuclear Magnetic Resonance. He is engaged in the study of quadruple effect on nuclear magnetic resonance in crystals. Sri M. Ramachandra Setty is constructing a diffusion cloud chamber and a Van de Graaf Generator (for 100,000 Volts) with the help of some of the M.Sc. students specialising in Nuclear Physics.

Dr. C. S. G. Setty is getting ready to continue the ionospheric investigations he was engaged on at the Cavendish

Laboratory prior to his return to this Department. It is hoped that this work will be in full swing before long with the materialisation of U. G. C. grants and the appointment of Research Scholars.

With the increased importance of Physics in all branches of human activity it is found that an increase in the strength of post-graduate classes is highly desirable. For the same reason expansion of the various research sections as also starting new branches would become necessary. A start in this direction was made in 1956 by increasing admissions to M.Sc. classes and by introducing Nuclear Physics as a special subject. Additions to the present building of the department as also purchase of apparatus, equipment and books is necessary for this purpose. For further expansion on these lines the help of the U. G. C. is awaited.

A Physical Society attached to the Department provides a venue for the scientific activities of students. Lectures by well known men of science are arranged for their benefit. Other activities of the society consist of lectures by students for which prizes are awarded and visits to industrial and scientific institutions in and around Bangalore.

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CHEMISTRY

CHEMISTRY WAS A SUBJECT OF STUDY IN Central College long before a separate department was constituted for the subject in 1913. The Department of Chemistry has since then undergone considerable expansion and is at present

serving the largest number of science students in the College.

Sri C. M. Vijayaraghavachar holds the distinction of being the first to organise and promote the teaching of Chemistry

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY—PROFESSORS



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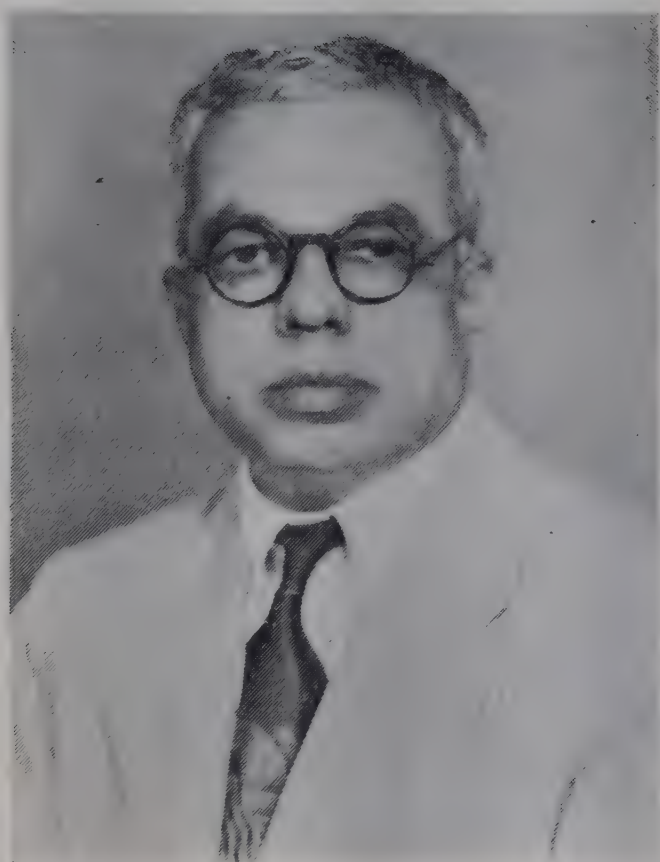
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in this institution. Mr. F. L. Usher (later Dr. F. L. Usher) was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry in 1910. He distinguished himself as an able teacher in physical chemistry and initiated research work of a high standard in general chemistry. In 1917, the need for a separate Chair for organic chemistry was felt and Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao, M.A., A.M. (Harvard) was appointed Professor of Organic Chemistry. Till recently, the department had these two chairs only. In July this year (1958), the post of Professor of Chemistry in Yuvaraja's College, Mysore, was shifted to Central College, to provide a Chair for Biochemistry.

Prof. F. L. Usher relinquished service in the University in 1926 and Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.) (Later D.Sc., Lond.) was appointed Professor of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry. Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao became the Head of the Department.

In January 1928, Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao passed away after a brief illness. His numerous students, colleagues and friends received this sad event with deep regret and instituted a prize in his honour known as 'Professor M. G. Srinivasa Rao Organic Chemistry Prize.'

In 1928, Dr. B. L. Manjunath, B.A., M.Sc. (Lond.), D.Phil. (Oxon) was appointed to the Chair of Organic Chemistry and Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao became the Head of the Department. The two professors looked after the interests of the Department together for a number of years and organised the B.Sc. Honours course which replaced the two-year B.Sc. course (old rules) in 1929. In

1932, Master Degree courses in Chemistry were introduced in the Department. In 1942, Dr. B. L. Manjunath left the College temporarily to take up the post of Chief Editor, Dictionary of Indian Raw Materials and Industrial products ("The Wealth of India") in New Delhi. Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao became the Principal, Central College, in 1946 and an year later, he retired from service to accept the post of Nizam Professor of Inorganic and Mineral Chemistry in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is now in active service as Professor of Chemistry in Gauhati University.

Dr. B. L. Manjunath returned to Central College, in 1948 as Principal. In 1950, he became the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore and this happy event is remembered by those associated with him in the Department with special pride. He held this high office till 1954 and retired from service. Sri H. Subba Jois, M.Sc., succeeded Dr. B. L. Manjunath as Professor of Organic Chemistry and held the post till his retirement from service in 1952. Dr. S. Siddappa, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.), D.I.C. has been holding the Chair of Organic Chemistry since the retirement of Professor H. Subba Jois.

The Chair of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry which became vacant in 1947 was held by Prof. N. Venkatanarasimha-char and later by Prof. H. Ramaswamy Iyengar, who retired from service in 1951. Dr. G. Narayan, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.) took charge of the Inorganic and Physical Chemistry sections of the Department as Professor in 1952. In July this year (1958) Dr. M. Shadaksharaswamy, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Edin.), A.R.I.C., Professor of Chemistry was posted to Central College, Bangalore.

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to organise the post-graduate course in Biochemistry, which was transferred from Medical College, Mysore, to this College.

It is a pleasure to state that several teachers who left the Department on foreign service are now occupying responsible positions in the administrative and scientific establishments of the Central Government.

During the past 15 years, there has been a rapid increase in the number of students admitted to the B.Sc. Degree course and this has called for an increase in the laboratory accommodation in this Department. The original Chemistry block which was built in 1913 was enlarged in 1940-41 by providing extensions to the two wings. A further extension of the building was undertaken in 1952 under the direction of Dr. B. L. Manjunath, who was then the Vice-Chancellor of the University. It must be stated that without the additional accommodation provided by these extensions, it would have been impossible to provide facilities for practical work in chemistry to the large number of students in this subject.

There have been noteworthy achievements in the field of research in this Department during the past 45 years. Soon after his appointment as Professor of Chemistry in 1910, Mr. F. L. Usher who had the unique opportunity to work under Sir William Ramsay undertook a programme of research work on colloidal systems and won the D.Sc. degree of the University of London. Professors N. Venkatanarasimhachar and H. Ramaswamy Iyengar collaborated with him and carried out research work on stearic acid sol and

on phase equilibria in inorganic systems. Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao who took charge of the Inorganic and Physical Chemistry sections in 1928, started a series of investigations in pure and applied inorganic and physical chemistry and also trained a number of his junior colleagues in the methods of research. His interests were spread over a wide variety of topics and a large number of research papers were published by him independently and in collaboration with his colleagues. He obtained the D.Sc. degree of the University of London for a part of his research work and three of his colleagues, Dr. K. S. G. Doss, Dr. M. R. Aswathanarayana Rao and Dr. K. Subba Rao achieved similar distinctions from the University of Madras. The following topics are cited to show the scope of research carried out by Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao and his collaborators during the years 1928 to 1947.

Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry

Investigations on new oxides, halides and oxyhalides of sulphur and selenium, catalytic activity of silver sulphide, constitution of Bordeaux mixture, Estimation of sulphur dissolved in organic liquids.

Physical Chemistry

Studies on sols, adsorption by gels, studies on surface films, electromotive behaviour of cupric oxide, theory of contact angles.

Applied Inorganic and Physical Chemistry

The use of metallised gels as catalyst, inorganic colloids in soils problem of storage and varietal differences in rice, wetting

agents, utilisation of sericin in waste silk, clarification of muddy water by *strychnos potatorum* seeds.

It is a pleasure to recall that Dr. G. Narayan who is in charge of the inorganic and physical chemistry sections since 1952 has had the initial research training under Dr. B. Sanjiva Rao. The current research programme comprises work on adsorption of ions in aqueous phase by hydrous oxides of metals, potential measurements with copper electrode, mechanism of formation of solid solutions. Equipment for radioactive tracer work has been recently received and a programme of work involving this technique is in progress.

Organic Chemistry

With the institution of a separate Chair for organic chemistry in 1917 and the appointment of Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao to this chair, research work in Organic Chemistry was started in this department. Prof. M. G. Srinivasa Rao investigated the active principles of *Decalpis Hamiltonii* which led to investigations on "substitution in resorcinol derivatives".

With the appointment of Dr. B. L. Manjunath as Professor of Organic Chemistry in 1928, there was fresh stimulus for research work and he instituted a series of investigations on the chemistry of indigenous medicinal plants. The starting of the M.Sc. courses by research in this college in 1932, further contributed to the rapid growth of research activities in the section and under the guidance of

Dr. Manjunath, this department soon became a recognised centre in India for research work in Organic Chemistry. The laboratories were equipped for organic micro-analytical work and investigation of natural products. Dr. Manjunath was assisted by Sri H. Subba Jois and Sri S. Siddappa (now Dr. S. Siddappa) (both of them later succeeded to the chair of Organic Chemistry) and other members of the staff. Mention may be made here of the investigations carried out in this laboratory on *Butea Frondosa*, *Cassia Tora*, *Psoralea Corylifolia*, *Datura Stramonium*, *Aristolochia Indica*, *Celastrus paniculatus*, *Santalum album*, *bragantia Wallichii*, *Lansium Annamalayanum*, *Xylia Xylocarpa*, *Alangium Lamarckii*, *Solanum Xanthocarpum*, *Alstonia Scholaris* and *Luffa Amara*. Particular mention may be made of the work on the constitution and synthesis of Psoralen, isopsoralen and Karanjin, other contributions include "organic semi-micro methods of combustion", "isomerisation of benzyldene derivatives" and "molecular compounds of 4 : 6—dichloro—1 : 3—dinitrobenzene". A large number of research papers of importance have been published.

The laboratory is now engaged in investigations on the chemistry of plant products and synthetical studies in the heterocyclic field. The work on the constitutions of Corylifolean and isopsoralidin has reached the final stages.

The laboratory is now provided with facilities for recording the U. V. spectra of Organic compounds.

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SRI R. VENKATARAMAIAH WAS THE FIRST Professor of Mathematics in the year 1870 when Mathematics was a subject of study only for the F.A. classes in the Central College. Owing to the indefatigable efforts of Dr. Cook who was the greatest Principal of the Central College and head of the department of Physics, Mathematics became a subject of study from the year 1886 for the B.A. classes also. Dr. Cook himself taught Mathematics and had published a few excellent books on elementary Mathematics. After some time the department of Mathematics was started with Professor R. H. Piggot and T. R. Venkataswamy Naidu. When Professor Piggot passed away suddenly in 1889, Sri M. T. Narayaniengar who topped the list of graduates in Mathematics of the Madras University in 1886 was appointed to the department in Central College. It was during the early years of his career that efforts were made to promote higher studies and research in Mathematics. Sri M. T. Narayaniengar, together with Sri V. Ramaswamy Iyer, Professor of Mathematics, Maharaja's College, and later a Deputy Collector in Madras and a few others in the Civil Service and Engineering profession, interested in Mathematics started the Indian Mathematical Society in 1908 which was known earlier as the Indian Mathematical Club. This was the first scientific body to be started in India for the encouragement of higher learning and research in Mathematics. Sri M. T. Narayaniengar

was the editor of the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society for a long time. The Mysore University was started in the year 1916 and B.Sc. classes were opened in science subjects in Central College and a number of brilliant students of the department of Mathematics have distinguished themselves in various walks of life. Sri P. V. Raghavendra Rao, I.C.S., the present Chief Secretary to the Government is one of the old distinguished students of the department who entered the Indian Civil Service by topping the list of successful candidates in the I.C.S. Examination in Delhi in the year 1931.

Professor M. T. Narayaniengar, retired in the year 1926 and Professor K. S. K. Iyengar succeeded him as Professor and head of the Department. He was a student of analysis and brought a number of improvements in the teaching of Mathematics with the assistance of his colleagues, Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao and Dr. C. N. Srinivasiengar. In the year 1930, B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.Sc. classes were opened in Central College. Among the several special topics that were taught since then, the following may be mentioned :—

Real Variables—Complex Variables—Elliptic and higher transcendental functions, integral equations, modern Algebra, differential geometry, Topology, Meromorphic functions, analytical dynamics, fluid dynamics, quantum mechanics, electromagnetic theory, Elasticity.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS—PROFESSORS



SRI M. T. NARANIENGAR



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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS—PROFESSORS



SRI F. J. NGRONHA



DR. S. V. KESHAVA HEGDE



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS—STAFF, 1958

It is significant to note that Sri M. Bheemasena Rao, who is not even a graduate and who was working as a humble clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction was recommended by late Dr. C. R. Reddy, who was the then Inspector-General of Education in Mysore, for the post of a research scholar in Mathematics in Central College. Later he was appointed as Lecturer and rose to the position of an Assistant Professor before he retired in the year 1936. He has contributed many researches in the field of geometry and was one of best professors known for clarity of thought and very interesting and elegant solutions by geometrical methods. The Mathematics library has been vastly improved and many advanced books and leading sets of journals in English and other modern European languages are being subscribed for. Dr. K. Venkatachala Iyengar, Professor of Mathematics, has taken great pains and devoted considerable thought in the preparation of the Mathematical models (in teak wood) especially on algebraic surfaces.

When Professor K. S. K. Iyengar passed away prematurely in 1944, Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao, Professor of Applied Mathematics, became the head of the Department and Dr. C. N. Srinivasiengar worked as Professor of Pure Mathematics. These two Professors retired in the year 1955 and Sri P. H. Nagappa, M.Sc. (Lond.), A.I.A (Lond.), became the Professor of Applied Mathematics and head of the Department. The other Professors of Mathematics in the Department are Dr. K. Venkatachala Iyengar, D.Sc., Sri F. J. Noronha, M.A. (Lond.), Sri T. Ramesan, M.Sc. and Dr. S. V. Keshava Hegde, M.Sc., Ph.D.

The research in Mathematics which started in a modest way on elementary topics in algebra, geometry and analysis has now assumed greater variety and proportion. More than 200 papers have been published by the members of this Department in the journals here and abroad. Mention may be made of the contributions by members of the staff on topics of higher analysis such as Tauberian theorems, and the theory of Summability, on the Theory of Elementary particles in Quantum Mechanics, on Differential Equations and Geometry, on the Congruence of pencils of quadratic forms and Lie algebras of classical groups.

A number of younger members of the staff have been trained in the Universities of the West. Dr. S. V. Keshava Hegde, Ph.D. (Zurich), specialised in Modern Algebra at Zurich, Sri P. N. Shivakumar, M.Sc. (Lond.), in the Theory of Elasticity in the University of London, Sri M. Lakshmanan, M.A., in Geometry in the University of Hamburg. Sri M. N. Channabasappa is now working for his Ph.D. in the University of Hamburg in Fluid Mechanics. Dr. T. S. Nanjundiah, Sm. Nagarathnamma and others have published Research Papers on several topics.

No old student of the Department of Mathematics can fail to see the genial face of Muddappa the senior attender of the Department who has worked in this Department for over 35 years from the days of Professor M. T. Narayana Iyengar. He is the one link with the old order of things in the Department and has become a symbol of integrity, loyalty and efficiency.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS—STAFF, 1958

It is significant to note that Sri M. Bheemasena Rao, who is not even a graduate and who was working as a humble clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction was recommended by late Dr. C. R. Reddy, who was the then Inspector-General of Education in Mysore, for the post of a research scholar in Mathematics in Central College. Later he was appointed as Lecturer and rose to the position of an Assistant Professor before he retired in the year 1936. He has contributed many researches in the field of geometry and was one of best professors known for clarity of thought and very interesting and elegant solutions by geometrical methods. The Mathematics library has been vastly improved and many advanced books and leading sets of journals in English and other modern European languages are being subscribed for. Dr. K. Venkatachala Iyengar, Professor of Mathematics, has taken great pains and devoted considerable thought in the preparation of the Mathematical models (in teak wood) especially on algebraic surfaces.

When Professor K. S. K. Iyengar passed away prematurely in 1944, Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao, Professor of Applied Mathematics, became the head of the Department and Dr. C. N. Srinivasiengar worked as Professor of Pure Mathematics. These two Professors retired in the year 1955 and Sri P. H. Nagappa, M.Sc. (Lond.), A.I.A (Lond.), became the Professor of Applied Mathematics and head of the Department. The other Professors of Mathematics in the Department are Dr. K. Venkatachala Iyengar, D.Sc., Sri F. J. Noronha, M.A. (Lond.), Sri T. Ramesan, M.Sc. and Dr. S. V. Keshava Hegde, M.Sc., Ph.D.

The research in Mathematics which started in a modest way on elementary topics in algebra, geometry and analysis has now assumed greater variety and proportion. More than 200 papers have been published by the members of this Department in the journals here and abroad. Mention may be made of the contributions by members of the staff on topics of higher analysis such as Tauberian theorems, and the theory of Summability, on the Theory of Elementary particles in Quantum Mechanics, on Differential Equations and Geometry, on the Congruence of pencils of quadratic forms and Lie algebras of classical groups.

A number of younger members of the staff have been trained in the Universities of the West. Dr. S. V. Keshava Hegde, Ph.D. (Zurich), specialised in Modern Algebra at Zurich, Sri P. N. Shivakumar, M.Sc. (Lond.), in the Theory of Elasticity in the University of London, Sri M. Lakshmanan, M.A., in Geometry in the University of Hamburg. Sri M. N. Channabasappa is now working for his Ph.D. in the University of Hamburg in Fluid Mechanics. Dr. T. S. Nanjundiah, Sm. Nagarathnamma and others have published Research Papers on several topics.

No old student of the Department of Mathematics can fail to see the genial face of Muddappa the senior attender of the Department who has worked in this Department for over 35 years from the days of Professor M. T. Narayana Iyengar. He is the one link with the old order of things in the Department and has become a symbol of integrity, loyalty and efficiency.

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BOTANY

THE BOTANY DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL College, Bangalore, is the fore-runner of similar Departments in the various constituent colleges of the University of Mysore. Like the parent College itself, the Department had humble beginnings and has grown to impressive proportions. Long before the Department came under the ægis of the Mysore University, it used to train students in Biology (including Botany) for the Intermediate examination of the Madras University. In 1919 it first saw the light of day as an independent department having as its first Head the late Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran, who had just then returned after qualifying for the Ph.D. Degree of Chicago University under the distinguished guidance of the eminent botanists Marle C. Coulter and Charles J. Chamberlain. Starting as a one-man Department, it now has a dozen staff members excluding nearly 30 others who serve in the constituent colleges of the University.

At first there was no space in the main building of the College for the Botany classes which were conducted in a portion of the Verandah which was enclosed. Beginning with a couple of students in 1919 the Department now trains nearly 500 students annually in Central College alone. Want of space is a definite and undesirable handicap in training large numbers of students. It is hoped that better facilities may be made available to the students with the completion of

the first floor of the Natural Sciences block.

Initially Dr. Sampathkumaran inculcated a sense of Research in the several recruits to the teaching staff who were particularly trained by him, and in one other associate Sri P. Kodanda Rao who later on carried this spirit of service and zeal for work to his nation-building activities. These two built up the traditions of the Department which were carried on without any break by their successors Dr. L. Narayan Rao, and Dr. C. V. Krishna Iyengar and are being carried on now by Dr. K. N. Narayan. During the twenties and thirties of the present century the Department built up a good school of plant morphology and cytology which attracted scholars from other Universities, among whom may be mentioned Dr. I. Banerji who now heads the Department of Botany of Calcutta University and Dr. T. S. Mahabale, Professor of Botany at Poona. Before Dr. Sampathkumaran returned from America, hardly any work was done in plant morphology and cytology. Soon after this Department started in Central College, Dr. W. Dudgeon who was a class-fellow of Dr. Sampathkumaran at Chicago joined the Ewing Christian College at Allahabad. These two eminent Botanists established schools of plant morphology and cytology in South and North India respectively, and, they are the fathers of research in plant morphology and cytology in India.



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY—STAFF, 1958

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY—STAFF, 1958

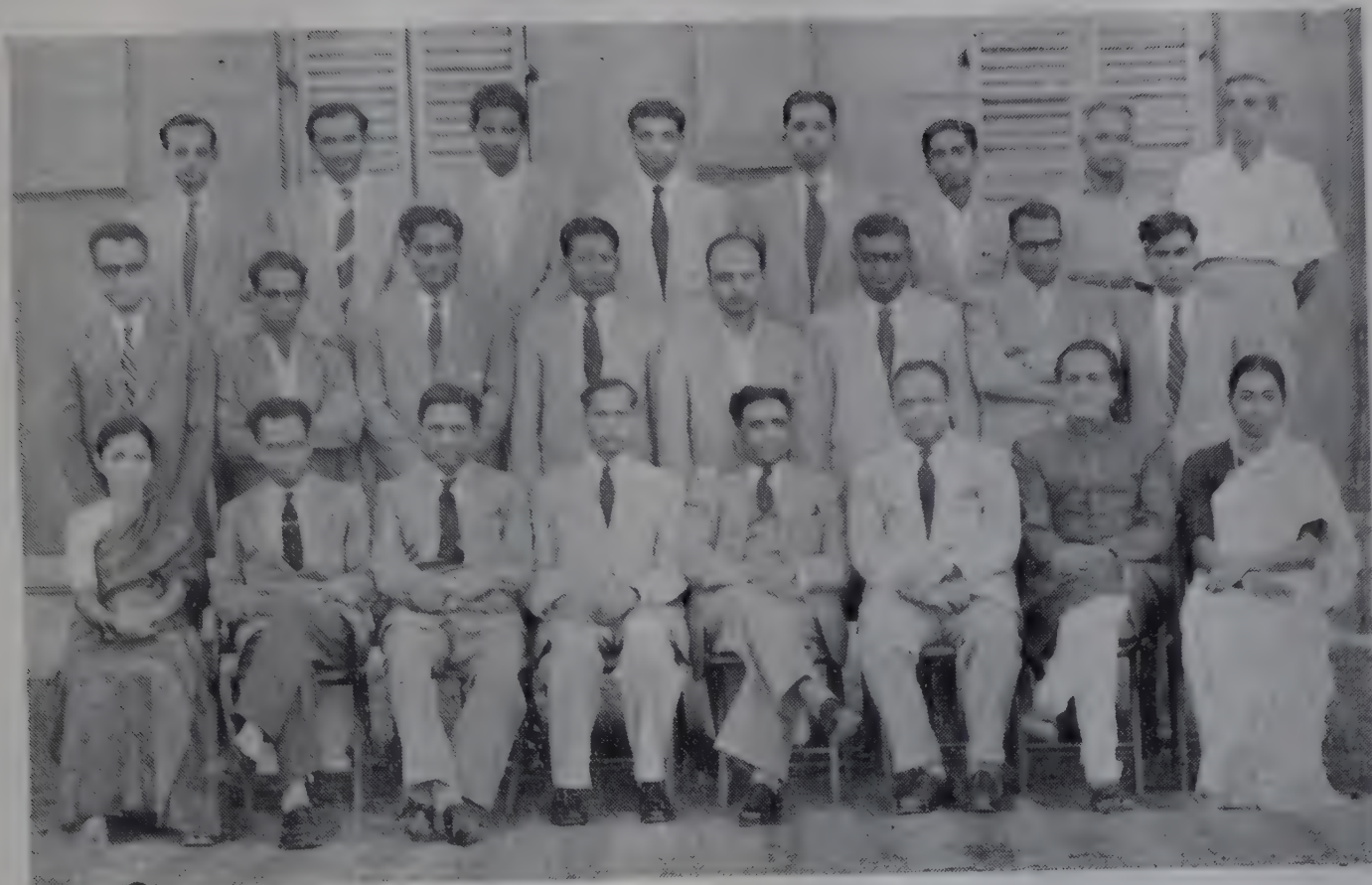
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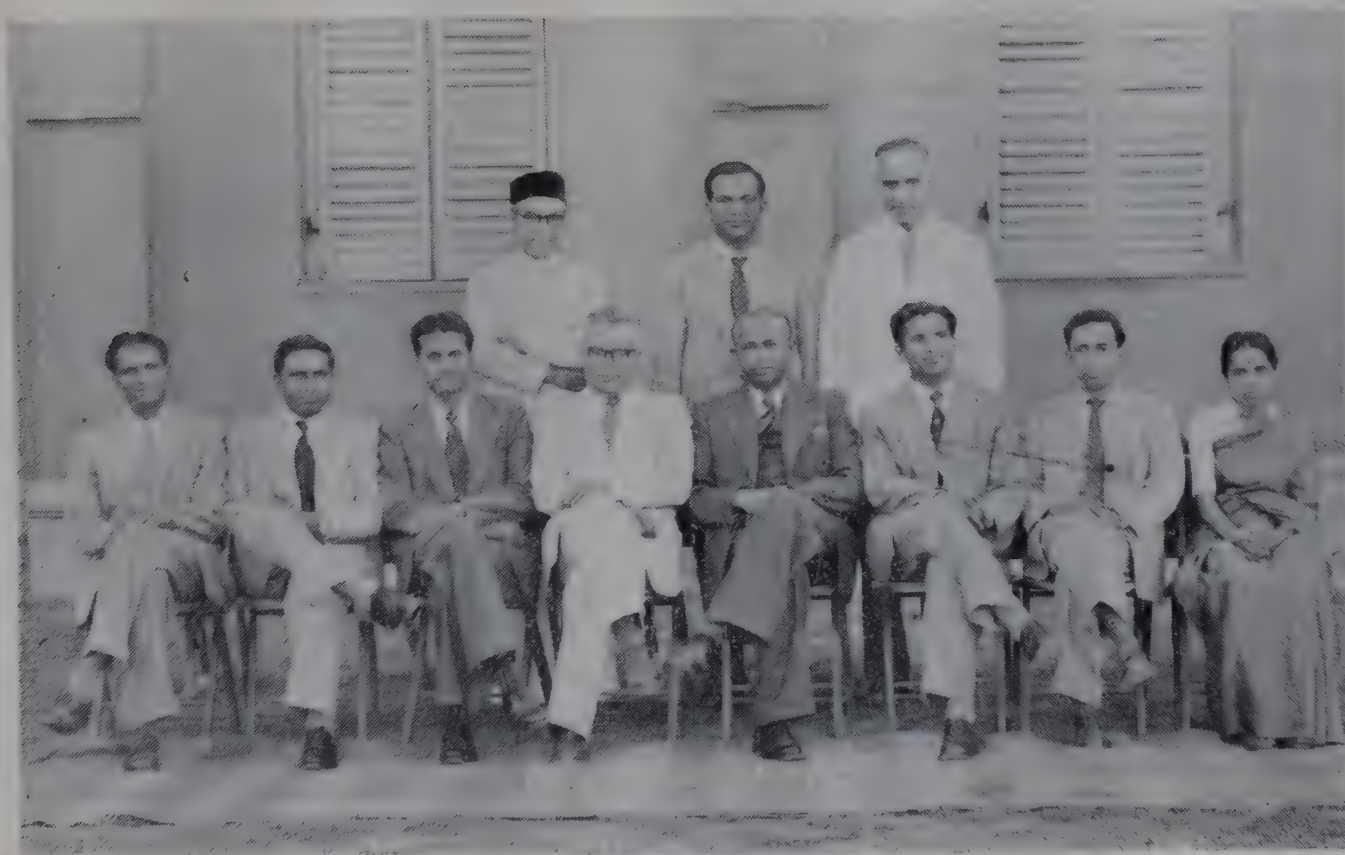
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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY—STAFF, 1958

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY—STAFF, 1958

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY—PROFESSORS



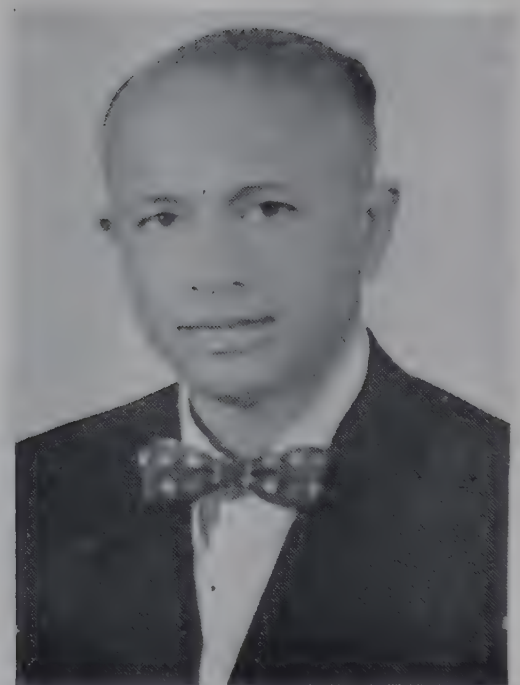
DR. M. A. SAMPATHKUMARAN



DR. L. NARAYAN RAO



DR. C. V. KRISHNIENGAR



DR. K. N. NARAYAN

The alumni of this Department have occupied distinguished positions of importance in Forest, Sericulture, Horticulture and Agriculture Departments, not only in Mysore and India but also outside India. Mr. K. Ramiah is working as I.L.O. expert for the United Nations in Manila. Several of them are in Scientific services like Botanical Survey of India and the Central Food Technological Institute. Among others mention must be made of the outstanding contribution of Dr. A. R. Gopalienar in the field of Cytology and Human Genetics. The Department justly feels proud of the alumni who have been making substantial contributions to the advancement of research in Botany. Some are in the Indian Administrative Service.

Research activities in the Department got an impetus from its first Professor Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran who was himself a fine technician. He would not tolerate haphazard work or crude technique. He was of the class of men who have a sense of purpose and enthusiastic workers, and brought into being a school of research in plant morphology, embryology and cytology. These workers have since then occupied their rightful place in the forefront of Botanical Researches in India. It is in the rightness of things that cytogenetics and other branches are now occupying a prominent place in research. Members of the staff and research workers have added much to the credit of the Department by their many contributions to botanical research in the field of Angiosperms, embryology, systematic botany, anatomy and plant cytology and genetics. Nearly 250 papers have been published in the several National and International Journals

devoted to Botany and many of these papers have been extremely well received by workers all over the world. Several members of the teaching staff of the department have, during the past several years, gone abroad for training in advanced work; and here again almost a record has been set up. Just at present five members of our Department are working in various Universities in the U.S.A. and Canada.

The department was consistently offering dissertations at the M.Sc. level till 1957 which not only initiated the students into the techniques of research but also created in them a lively interest in research. Perhaps this was responsible for so many students taking zealously to research as evidenced by the fact that there are as many as forty students who have secured their doctorate degrees, a record for any one Department. This is a matter for genuine pride and gratification to the Department. Unfortunately the Department had to drop offering dissertations from this year.

One of the traditions of the Department is the close teacher-pupil relationship sponsored by curricular and extra-curricular activities of the Botanical Society. This is achieved by arranging popular and scientific lectures by eminent botanists, a series of prize lectures by students, organisation of a Botanical Exhibition as a part of the Horticultural shows in Bangalore, and by a number of botanical excursions. The Botanical Society was born in August 1927, and the first talk was given by Syed Ahmed Kabir on the Blue Green Algæ. In the early part of 1928-29 the Botanical Society was formally organised under the paternal

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY - PROFESSORS



DR. V. A. SAMPATHKUMARAN



DR. L. NARAYAN RAO



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guidance of Dr. Sampathkumaran. Since the formal launching of the Society in 1928 a very good record of activities has been maintained from year to year. Very soon the society acquired an entirely democratic outlook under the overall supervision of the Professor-President. The Vice-President, the Secretaries and representatives of the various classes are always elected, while there is a Treasurer nominated by the President from among the staff members. The various Secretaries and students of the Department maintained at all times a degree of efficiency and thoroughness in the annual programme, in managing its many sided academic activities, and also in promoting an agreeably social atmosphere for all the students. The highlight of the Society's activities has always been its annual Social Gathering where the students display their talents. In 1936 the Society staged a ballet with background songs in true Kathakali style. The script of this and several such later ones were written by students and always had a botanical background. During January 1954 the Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee, and the then President of the Society Professor L. N. Rao, donated a handsome prize which is to be awarded to the best student in Botany at the annual University Convocation. Till this was instituted there was no prize for Botany. The Department is

grateful to Professor L. N. Rao for this gesture. The day to day activities of the society and excursions are always managed by the students.

During October 1958 a party of 80 students went out on a study tour to Delhi, Agra, Bombay and Madras. At Delhi they had an audience with the President, the Vice-President, and the Prime Minister of India. All arrangements in connection with this tour were made entirely by the student Vice-President and student Secretary of the Society. The enthusiasm and efficiency of Stephen Devadas (Vice-President), Y. Siva Sundaram (Secretary) and S. A. Khayum (Assistant Secretary) in managing the tour with such success and without the assistance of any staff members is a glorious tribute to their qualities of discipline and leadership.

As an adjunct to the Department there is a small Botanical Garden and Green House where interesting botanical specimens required for teaching and research are grown. With the coming up of the new building and the expansion of the Department, most of the plants growing in the present garden may have to be transferred to the newly constructed Green Houses; but the old one will always remain as the nucleus of any further expansion.

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ZOOLOGY

THE INTRODUCTION OF COURSES IN Biology in the Central College dates back to 1908 when, as a result of the recommendations of the Bourne Commission

appointed by the Madras University (to which the Central College was then affiliated), it was decided that Biology and Human Physiology should form part of

curricula at the Intermediate and B.A. levels. Zoology, however, was introduced at the Intermediate level and in 1909 Mr. C. R. Narayan Rao was appointed Assistant Professor in charge of the teaching of the subject. The department had no separate habitation at the time; actually the Botany, Zoology and Human Physiology departments were housed in the southern wing of the main building. There was no museum, and except for a microscope and a dissection set lent by the Physics department, there was hardly any equipment. From such modest beginnings, the department grew, under the inspiring guidance of Mr. C. R. Narayan Rao who was soon appointed professor and Head of the Department and who occupied that position until his retirement in 1937. Those were important years in the history of the Department. Biological subjects were just beginning to be taught in most Indian Universities and in many, the emphasis was on teaching taxonomy and morphology of animal groups. Professor Narayan Rao struck out new paths and many of his former pupils remember the inspiring manner such new aspects like embryology, developmental history, ecology and animal evolution were taught by him. He early recognized the importance of a museum as an adjunct to teaching zoology and quickly built up one. The specimens were largely collections made by him and his students. He was for some time assisted by Mr. K. Karunakaran Nayar, who, however left for Cochin in 1927 to take up a position there.

Almost from the beginning Professor C. R. Narayan Rao realized the importance of research in the Department. He was interested in a wide variety of animal groups,—in earthworms, in fishes, in

Amphibia,—and was one of the first in the Central College to publish the results of his work in recognized journals in India and abroad. Several papers on the taxonomy and morphology of Amphibia were published, based on the extensive collections he made in Mysore and other parts of India. In his presidential address to the zoology section of the Indian Science Congress held in 1938, he presented to the congress a summary of his taxonomical researches on Amphibia. While he was interested mainly on the morphology of animals, he encouraged his younger colleagues to work in other fields which were then becoming popular and important. Mysore, and South India generally, had long been known to be the home of the exotic amphibian group,—Gymnophiona,—and with a view to understanding the morphology and cytology of the animals of this group, extensive collections of the three genera, *Ichthyophis*, *Uræotyphlus* and *Gegenophis*, were made. Over a period of ten years, students and research workers in the department occupied themselves with problems on the structure, habits, development and cytology of this group. Nearly a hundred papers were published and today, the Department of Zoology, Central College, is well known in this field of research and is one of the very few in the world which have made such extensive contributions to the understanding of this interesting group. The description and analysis of the chromosomes of *Gymnophiona* published by the Department form the only information available to-day.

In 1937, Dr. A. Subba Rao was appointed Professor of Zoology. He was a former pupil of Professor C. R. Narayan Rao and for some time a demonstrator

in the department. He soon went to the London University where he studied under Professor J. P. Hill, the celebrated embryologist and obtained his D.Sc. degree. On his return, he served for about ten years as Professor of Physiology in the newly started medical college and when in 1937, the Chair of Zoology in the Central College fell vacant on the retirement of Professor C. R. Narayan Rao, he was appointed to it.

Trained as he was in more modern methods of research, Dr. Subba Rau encouraged the introduction of these methods in the Department and a highly productive period in its history began. This was also a period when increasingly large number of students sought admission to the department and it soon became necessary to find additional space. It was mainly due to Dr. Subba Rau's efforts that plans were drawn up for the new Natural Sciences block. The war prevented the fulfilment of his dream of moving the department of zoology into the new building during his term of office as Professor of Zoology, for not until 1952, long after his retirement in 1946, was the ground floor of the new block available for shifting the zoology department, which had been housed for over 43 years in the old building.

Dr. Subba Rau served in the Central College for nine years, during nearly four of which he was also its Principal.

Dr. B. R. Seshachar was appointed Professor of Zoology in 1947, and soon after, paid visits to the United States and Europe. A new dynamism in science was evident everywhere, and both teaching and research in Zoology demanded the application of newer disciplines. Universities and Institutions in many other coun-

tries had already adopted these methods and the zoology department could not afford to ignore the new trends. Experimental methods were called for, quantitative approaches were needed, and as a result, the teaching courses became distinctly modern and research problems also diversified. With the additional space available, and with larger grants from the Mysore University and other sources, modern equipment was installed in the department for research in a variety of different fields. Adequate trained personnel also became available and several teachers and other research workers in the department were able to obtain their doctorate degrees on the basis of the research work done here. Many of them went abroad to the United States and Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany, and were able to benefit by the training in Universities and Institutions of learning in these countries.

Today, the department of zoology is the best equipped in the country both in regard to apparatus and facilities for research and also in regard to personnel. It is regarded as a centre for higher research in cytology and cytogenetics, in cell physiology, in basic and experimental embryology, in endocrinology and in protozoology. Scholars come from different parts of India to be trained here and in 1955-56 Professor W. F. Diller of the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., chose to work here during the period of his sabbatical leave.

A perusal of the research papers published by workers in the Department during the past five years is indicative of the great diversity of problems that are being studied. The structure of chromosomes of a variety of animals under

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY—PROFESSORS



SRI C. R. NARAYAN RAO



DR. B. R. SESHACHAR



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY—STAFF, 1958

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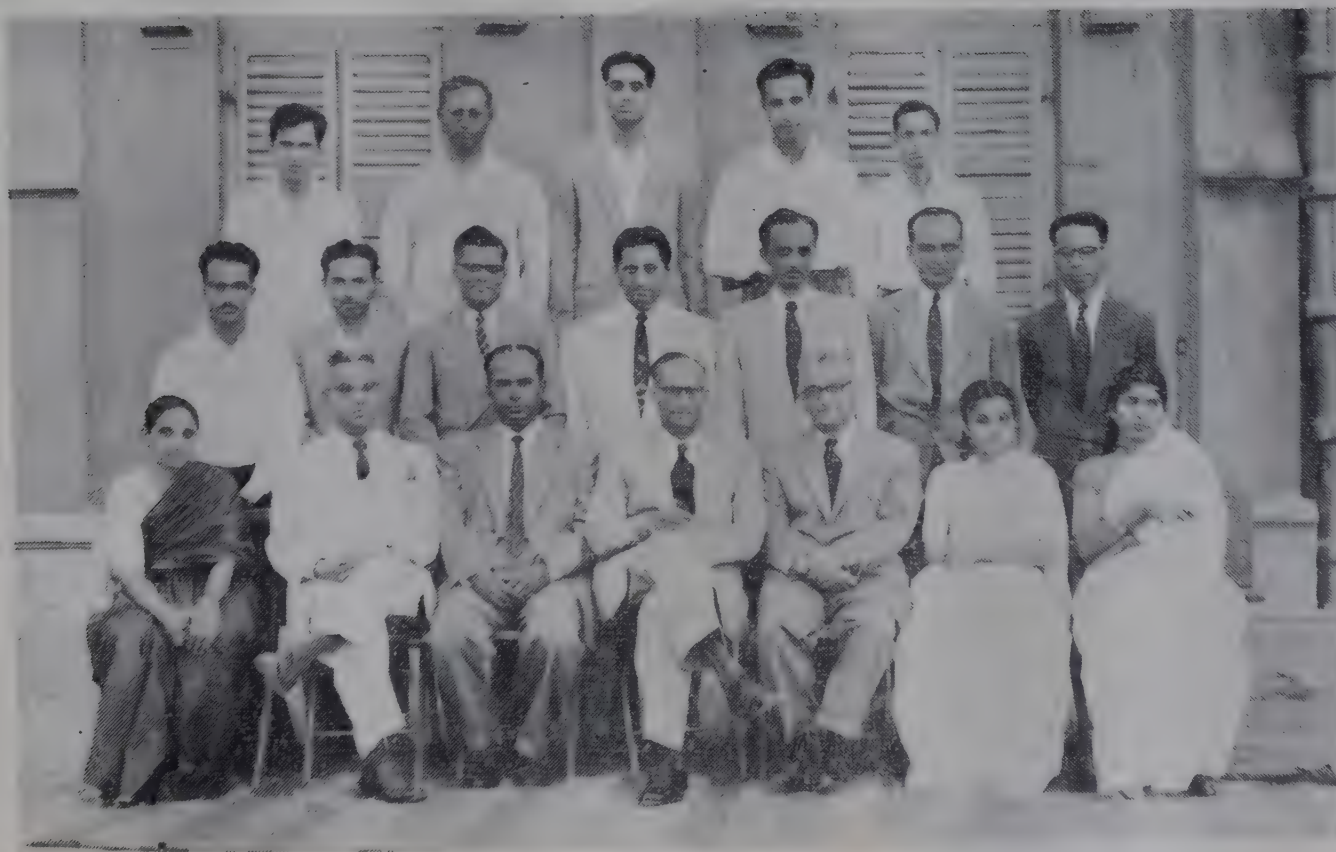
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY—PROFESSORS



SRI C. R. NARAYAN RAO



DR. B. R. SESHACHAR



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY—STAFF, 1958

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY—PROFESSORS



SRI V. S. SAMBASIVA IYER



SRI P. SAMPAT IYENGAR



DR. C. S. PICHAMUTHU



SRI M. R. SRINIVASA RAO

normal and experimental conditions, the life history, cytology, cytochemistry and cell physiology of Protozoa ; the morphology, development and functional relationships of the skull and related structures in vertebrates ; the experimental induction of spawning in food-fishes ; the reproductive and developmental cycles of mammals ; the structure, development and physiology of the pituitary, thymus and other endocrine organs ;—these are among the more important subjects engaging the attention of the workers in the department. Study of these problems demands newer methods and disciplines involving the employment of complicated physical and chemical apparatus. Calorimeters for the determination of amounts of pigment in a ciliate protozoan, spectro-photometric equipment for estimating the minute amounts of proteins and nucleic acids in the cell, phase contrast and interference microscopes for critical examination of living and fixed biological material, X-ray equipment for the study of mutations and other cell changes, chromatographic and electrophoretic apparatus for the analysis of proteins and amino acids, and micro-manipulators for the dissection and study of minute cells, form part of this equipment in the department.

Future plans for the department are extensive and ambitious. Financial assistance from the Government of India, University Grants Commission and other organisations in this country and outside will lend new dimensions to the department, and help to enlarge its library, build up a good museum and generally make it the foremost centre for research and higher teaching. The Government of India are contemplating big schemes of Scientific Research. Their Scientific Policy Resolution promises a fair deal to the scientist and the research worker and offers opportunities of uninterrupted pursuit of research in an atmosphere free from interference and want. They have recognized the Department of Zoology, Central College, as a centre for higher research in Biology. They are contemplating a scheme by which wings of research supported by them are started in a number of Universities, where workers from different parts of the country could come together. It is hoped that the Zoology Department will be one such and here will gather students and workers from different parts of India and abroad imbued with the desire of dedication to Scientific Research.

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GEOLOGY

THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL College, Bangalore, was started in the year 1898, and consequently, it is one of the oldest of the Departments teaching Geology in South India. It was started

with the idea of recruiting officers for the Mysore Geological Department which had come into existence a few years earlier under the guidance of R. B. Foote. Many students who took their degrees in

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY—PROFESSOR



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Geology from this Department have served the Mysore Geological Department.

Till the year 1917 it was affiliated to the Madras University, and when the Mysore University was started, it naturally became the leading Department teaching Geology in the University. In the early days, officers of the Mysore Geological Department were appointed as Professors. E. W. Weatheral and V. S. Sambashiva Iyer were the earliest officers who were put in charge of the department.

During the year 1920, P. Sampath Iyengar, M.A., who was then the Deputy Director of Geology was appointed as Professor of Geology, and his dynamic personality and enthusiasm were responsible for the rapid progress in the Department. In the year 1927 he was appointed Director of Geology in Mysore in addition to his being the Professor of Geology in Central College. During the years 1927 to 1932 he was able to bring the two institutions into close contact and this spirit of mutual co-operation and good will has been maintained ever since. During his Professorship, the department grew in all directions and came to be recognised as the foremost institution in India for both Geological instruction and research. It was during this period that several rapid strides were made both in Petrological and Palæontological sections. The museum was expanded considerably and equipment for advanced research work was provided and a great impetus was given to original investigation. P. Sampath Iyengar retired from service in 1932.

Professor L. Ramarao succeeded him and he held the office for over two decades from 1932 to 1953 except for a short period of 3 years when he was the Principal of the Intermediate College, Bangalore. During his long association with the Department he continued the traditions laid down by Professor Sampath Iyengar and others.

During this period Geology became very popular and the number of students taking this subject increased considerably. The courses of study were reorganised by the University ; and Intermediate Colleges were established in several district headquarters and Geology was allowed as one of the Optional subjects. The newly introduced two-year Intermediate course was followed up by either a two-year B.Sc. degree course or a specialised three-year Honours course. Several of the Honours students have distinguished themselves and are now holding responsible positions in the Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines, Atomic Energy Commission and Assam Oil Company. Professor L. Ramarao who gave a great impetus to the development of original investigations in Palæontological problems also trained a large number of young men in this branch of research. His work on the Micropalæontology of the South Indian Cretaceous has become a classical work.

It was again during this period that Dr. Pichamuthu conducted investigations on the Petrological side and published a large number of papers particularly on the Dharwars of Mysore. He was Professor of Geology between 1943 and 1946 during which period he not only continued



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY—STAFF, 1958

Geology from this Department have served the Mysore Geological Department.

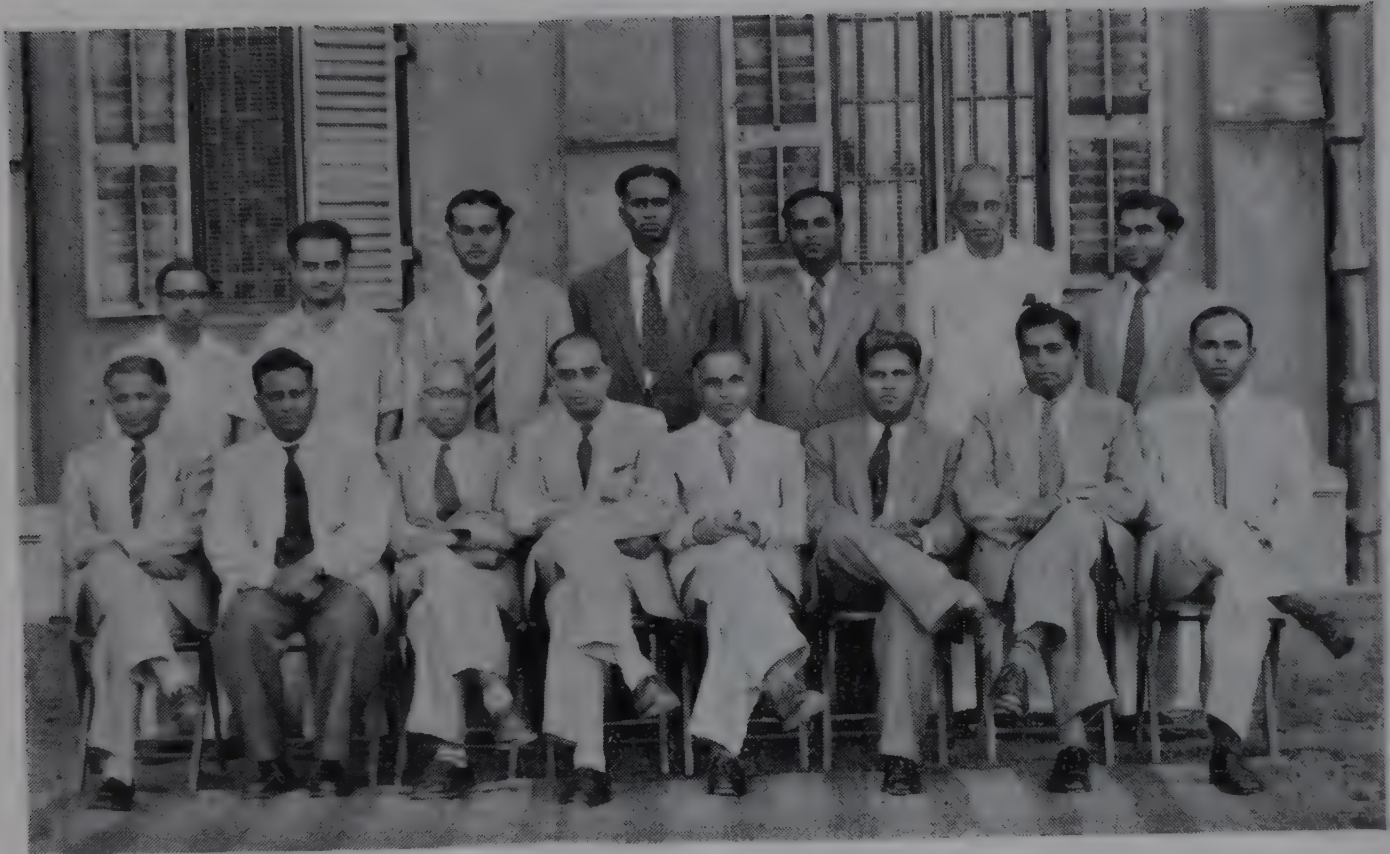
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DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY—STAFF, 1958



MANAGING COMMITTEE AND STAFF, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, 1958

his work but also added additional equipment to the Department. Subsequently he left the University and became the Director of Geology in Mysore.

Dr. P. R. Jagapathi Naidu who was an Assistant Professor in this University for a long period took great interest in the development of Crystallography and Mineralogy. A large number of students were trained by him in this branch of Geology up to the Master's degree. Later on, after his return from Switzerland he joined the newly formed Department of Geology and Physics of the Madras University.

Professor E. R. Narayanaswami who was in the department for over 20 years has published a large number of papers on the Foraminifera of the Tertiary rocks of North West India. At present he is the Director of Uttara Pradesh Geological Survey; similarly Professor K. Sripadarao was in this department for over 15 years and contributed several papers on the Mineralogy of the Inter trap beds near Hyderabad.

In recent years the Department of Geology in Central College has expanded further and the number of students has almost doubled.

Professor L. Ramarao retired from service in April 1953 after serving the Department for more than 35 years. During the last two years of his service he was the Principal of the College.

In the years 1953 and 1954 Dr. M. G. Chakrapani Naidu was for some time Professor of Geology, and at the end of

1954, Dr. Pichamuthu was again appointed Professor of Geology in addition to his duties as Director of Geology in Mysore. He retired from service in July 1956 and since then Sri M. R. Srinivasarao has been in charge of the department; and he is assisted by a team of experienced and qualified teaching staff.

From 1956 onwards owing to the increasing demand for trained Geologists all over the country, a large number of students are taking Geology as one of the subjects in their optional group. In the reorganised courses of studies, nearly 65 students have taken up Geology as their major subject and there are as many as 18 students in the M.Sc. class, and three Government of India Senior Research students and one Mysore University Fellowship holder, thus indicating that the younger generation have come to appreciate the great importance attached to this subject, not only in the several five-year plans of our National Government but also in the General development of the Mineral industries of the country. The existing accommodation is hardly sufficient to house the growing department and it is hoped very soon this expanding department will have its own building. The tradition of the department is being continued in good spirit and scores of young men are going out of this department every year and are finding employment in responsible positions and the department is proud of them. Two of the staff members have just now returned after completing their studies abroad and four more are taking specialised courses in the Universities of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

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MANAGING COMMITTEE AND STAFF, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, 1958

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THE ORIGIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF English goes back to the days when Central College made a modest beginning as a high school. English was a compulsory subject as it is now and instruction in the subject was imparted to the students by Englishmen. From the start the department received expert care and attention. Many of the earliest teachers of English were very able and genial men. They helped to build the department on an enduring foundation.

In the days of Professor Tait, a fresh impetus was given to the study of English. He inculcated a genuine love of literature and encouraged a critical approach to literary masterpieces. An inspiring teacher Professor Tait exercised a noble influence on successive batches of students for over two decades. He moulded the character and personality of his pupils who remember him with respect and love. He was a fine sportsman and taught his students to play the game of life like true sportsmen. He left the powerful impress of his personality on the department and established high standards and traditions.

Some years later, provision was made to teach English as an optional subject. The optional English course attracted a small group of keen students who wished to specialise in English literature. This was a step towards higher studies in English literature and language.

Subsequently, Professor S. R. Sell was the Head of the Department. His numerous students remember him with respect and affection. He had a fine sense of humour which brightened his scholarly lectures. Professor B. M. Srikantia is an important and influential figure in the history of the department. A man of great erudition, he possessed remarkable powers of exposition. Professor B. M. Srikantia was an outstanding scholar not only in English literature, but also in Kannada literature. His services to Kannada literature are well known. He gave Kannada literature a new and vigorous orientation. It is a matter of gratification to the department of English that one of its professors played so distinguished a part in the renaissance of Kannada literature.

The rapid increase in the number of students admitted to the College and the consequent enlargement of the size of the classes brought increasing strains and burdens. Under a succession of able professors, the department continued to flourish. Professor E. G. McAlpine and Professor A. B. Mackintosh kept alive the traditions established by earlier professors. They were men devoted to their task. The B.A.(Hons.) Degree Course in English was introduced in Central College and it has been attracting large numbers of students.

Professor B. Nagesha Rao gave a broad philosophic basis to the study of English

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—PROFESSORS



Sasakta B. M. SRIKANTIA



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ENGLISH

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—PROFESSORS



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SRI S. V. RANGANNA



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SRI K. ANANTHARAMAIAH

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—PROFESSORS



SRI A. N. MURTHY RAO



SRI O. K. NAMBIAR



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—STAFF, 1958

Department of English. Professor K. Anantharamaiah, well known for his zeal and accuracy, was the head of the Department. In 1954, there was a progressive development. The M.A. degree course in English literature was started in Central College. Before the introduction of this course in Central College, it used to be confined to Maharaja's College, Mysore. This trend of development has continued. Professor K. Anantharamaiah and Professor A. N. Moorthy have been followed by a competent staff, successful in putting the post-graduate course in English literature on a sound footing. The course attracted many keen students and continues to do so.

Professor A. N. Moorthy Rao succeeded Professor K. Anantharamaiah. Professor A. N. Moorthy Rao the author of several books, some original, and others, translations. Professor M. E. Bharatraj Singh succeeded Professor A. N. Moorthy Rao as the head of the department. A stimulating teacher and a genial man, he has earned the affection of his students. Professor O. K. Nambiar, the present head of the Department of English is continuing its noble traditions and fostering the varied cultural interests with which this department has always been associated.

Following the revision of the courses of study in the University, the B.A. (Hons.) degree courses will cease to function in 1960, when the last batch will have taken their examination. The re-introduction of the Optional English course is likely next year.

The department has a fine record. A heavy quantum of work has always

fallen to the share of the lecturing staff of Assistant Professors and Lecturers who have competently addressed themselves to their task. Among them, Sri V. Srinivasa Rao, Senior Assistant Professor, with his long experience and fine record of work has contributed to the strength of the department.

In cultural and literary competitions, some of our students have won all-India recognition. Miss Usha Muliyl, won the first prize in a U.N.O.-sponsored essay competition open to students all over India. Miss Vimala won awards for music in the Youth Festival of 1956.

Many graduates of this College who specialized in English are now on the staff of the University or of the Department of Education. Many more are doing useful work in other departments of the State or outside the State. A few have distinguished themselves by passing the higher examinations of the Union Public Service Commission and they have secured employment in the different

Journal of Central Committee

As a part of the old staff of the Department from the old days—Thippaiah, the Senior Attender of the Department. He has put in long years of devoted service in the Department and has won the kind regard of the staff and students.

The English Seminar

The English Seminar, founded by the late Professor B. M. Srikantia, is a society of students of English literature. It holds weekly meetings when papers in the field of special study are read, followed by discussions. Arrangements are made for

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—PROFESSORS



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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH—STAFF, 1958

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A word may be said here of a survivor from the old days—Thippaiah, the Senior Attender of the Department. He has put in long years of devoted service in the Department and has won the kind regard of the staff and students.

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symposia and lectures by distinguished men on cultural subjects. The study of classics and critical discussions are other features of the Seminar programme. Debates and lectures are also regularly arranged. The Seminar attempts to foster a sense of fellowship. Social functions are arranged, talents are discovered and opportunity is given for their encourage-

ment. The Seminar has, in recent years proved useful as a machinery for conducting the general social activities of the College and has gained considerable popularity. A magazine was brought out by the Seminar in its early years. Last year, an attractive, illustrated manuscript magazine was produced which won praise from every quarter.

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KANNADA

FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS KANNADA HAS been one of the major second languages studied in this College. It was for a long time in charge of Pandits who were as a rule well-versed in Sanskrit also, a language which is at the background of all Indian Literatures written before the advent of English studies in India. Noteworthy among these Pandits are Mahamahopadhyaya Siddhanti Sivasankara Sastry and Pandits Jayaram Venkatachar and Garani Krishnachar. Under them was trained the new generation of Kannada Scholars and workers.

A decisive influence in this training was Sri R. Raghunatha Rao, who lectured occasionally on Kannada Philology and taught the art of translation. He was never satisfied with any translation which did not bring out, as he would say, 'the spirit'. Pandit Krishnachar's translation of 'Mrichchakatika' and 'Nagananda' and Sri Raghunatha Rao's 'Art of Translation' and 'Vyakaranopanyasa Manjari' dealing with the history of Kannada dialects, started the tradition of writing in the Kannada Department.

Principal Tait and Dr. Metcalfe took a personal interest in the development of Kannada in the College.

Principal Tait was a keen lover of literature, English and Sanskrit, and tried to raise the level of teaching in Kannada. In his report for 1914-15 he said "a graduate with special qualifications in Kanarese is required.... I trust that the newly awakened interest in the future of the Kanarese language may dispose Government to consider more favourably the suggestion that the post should be treated as an Assistant Professorship." He got printed at his own expense the lecture "ಕನ್ನಡಮಾತು ತಲೆಯೆತ್ತುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ" that had been delivered at Dharwar by Sri B. M. Srikantia. It was at his instance that Sri A. R. Krishna Sastry came to the Kannada Department of this College in 1915.

When Sri Krishna Sastry was transferred to the Mysore Oriental Library in 1919, Sri T. S. Venkannaiya came in his place. Here we would quote one incident about Sri Venkannaiya and Principal

Metcalfe, from Sri H. V. Bhasyam Iyengar who was like so many teachers, an old boy of this College. He was on the staff of the Intermediate College. Alas ! his promising career was cut short.

“ I must just say one little thing with regard to the College which I carry with me wherever I happen to go, call it the College Consciousness, call it the College spirit, there it is. One little thing about Dr. Metcalfe I shall tell you. There is something of the Central College in him. He returns from England. He walks straight to that old small block (the tiffin rooms). There in that region there is an humble worker, working for the cause of the Vernacular in our country. He has been doing very honest work. The little stones he is piling up, the little fabric he is building up will do great credit to our University one of these days. Dr. Metcalfe goes to Mr. Venkannaiya, and looking at him, the first thing he asked to the surprise of Mr. Venkannaiya is “Mr. Venkannaiya, how is your Karnataka Sangha getting on?”. Dr. Metcalfe’s work is in the laboratory. But his heart is here, there and everywhere. His heart is with his students who are going out of the College and I can make a reference to the very kind words he has spoken with regard to the young, tender, little leaf that is coming up and probably showing its blossom—Karnataka Sangha—in the old little broken wing of the College. I believe that kind of expansive sympathy is just the proper tradition of every College and I am proud to say is a tradition of our College ”.

That is a picture dear to the lovers of Kannada.

With the starting of the Mysore University in 1916, a new impetus was given to the study of Kannada. His Highness the Chancellor, inaugurating the Senate said “ I am naturally interested in the special encouragement of Kannada Literature which is provided for in the University Scheme....” Again, at the first convocation, His Highness emphasised the need for the improvement of Kannada : “Our University attaches great importance to the study of the Vernaculars, which are made compulsory throughout the Course, and the Publication Bureau is doing very useful work in encouraging the publication of books written in good Kannada....I trust that the University will do all in its power to foster the study of our mother-tongue....”

Accordingly, the University has created an Assistant Professorship in Kannada in this College. Messrs T. S. Venkannaiya, M.A., A. R. Krishna Sastry, M.A., K. V. Puttappa, M.A., V. Sitaramiah, M.A., and D. L. Narasimhachar, M.A., were the Assistant Professors and Heads of the Department, since 1919. Sri G. P. Rajaratnam is at present the Assistant Professor and Head of the Department.

Since 1919, the Department has been working with only an Assistant Professor and a Lecturer, in spite of the growing number of students who take Kannada as a second language of study.

In spite of the lack of suitable accommodation and shortage of staff, the Department, in addition to its departmental duties has carried on the torch of Kannada throughout the length and breadth of Karnataka through the Central College Karnataka Sangha.

The Karnataka Sangha was initiated in August 1918 by Sri A. R. Krishna Sastry with the whole-hearted co-operation of the students and staff of those days. The personal interest that the Principals took in the Sangha has been mentioned. The members of staff of the various other departments also took a similar interest in the Sangha. Prof. B. Venkatanarayanappa, Professor of Physics, who had played a prominent part in the establishment of the Karnataka Sahitya Parishat was the President of this Sangha from 1918-1930.

The Sangha, in 1919, started a Kannada quarterly named 'Prabudha Karnataka'. Thirteen volumes of this magazine were published by the Sangha and from the fourteenth onwards, the University undertook the responsibility of running it. The magazine has grown in bulk and variety. The fortieth volume is in progress.

The Sangha with its Quarterly, started by Sri A. R. Krishna Sastry, was, on his transfer, ably continued by Sri T. S. Venkannaiya. It was, we may even say, the joint endeavour of these two great Savants of Kannada that put the Sangha and its quarterly on firm ground right from the start. Dr. L. D. Barnett observed that this Sangha was "a Society of scholarly Kannadigas which is doing excellent service to the cause of literary and Historical culture in Kannada speaking lands." In those days the Sangha published more than twenty-five books on featherweight and real art paper, with good printing and good binding and sold them at prices within the reach of the common man. Some of them were awarded the Devaraja Bahadur Literary

Prize for being the best books published during those years. Among the writers of these books were such distinguished scholars and Old Boys of the college, as Prof. B. M. Srikantia and Sri Masti Venkatesa Iyengar. After the University took over 'Prabuddha Karnataka' in 1932, the publications of the Sangha had come to a standstill. But the activities of the Sangha have been continued without an interruption. The Silver Jubilee of the Karnataka Sangha was celebrated in 1943. Prof. B. M. Srikantia was the second President of the Karnataka Sangha from 1930—1943.

The Sangha, apart from arranging the usual lectures, readings, discussions and other student activities, used to award a token scholarship of Rs. 50 per annum to the best student in the Junior B.A. and B.Sc. classes who stood first in Kannada in the Intermediate examination and had no other source of assistance. After the handing over of 'Prabuddha Karnataka' to the University and the resultant loss of revenue to the Sangha, this token scholarship was stopped for some years. But, with the building up of the publication section of the Sangha again since 1952, the amount of scholarship distributed among deserving students has reached Rs. 461 in the year 1957-58. A slightly bigger sum is available this year also.

This second round of publications of the Sangha falls into three categories: (a) Books written by well-known writers like Sri K. V. Iyer, Sri S. G. Sastry, Sri M. S. Subramanya Sastry, Sri V. Sitarameiah and others; (b) ಕಾವ್ಯದ ಬರಹಗಳಲ್ಲಿ various forms of literary composition written by the College students and

DEPARTMENT OF KANNADA



SRI D. L. NARASIMHAIAH



SRI G. P. RAJARATHNAM
SRI B. N. SASTRY



KARNATAKA SANGHA

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The Sangha, apart from arranging the usual lectures, readings, discussions and other literary activities, used to award a token scholarship of Rs. 50 per annum to the best student in the Junior B.A. and B.Sc. classes who stood first in Kannada in the Intermediate examination and had no other source of assistance. After the handing over of 'Prabuddha Karnataka' to the University and the resultant loss of revenue to the Sangha, this token scholarship was stopped for some years. But, with the building up of the publication section of the Sangha again since 1952, the amount of scholarship distributed among deserving students has reached Rs. 461 in the year 1957-58. A slightly bigger sum is available this year also.

This second round of publications of the Sangha falls into three categories: (a) Books written by well-known writers like Sri K. V. Iyer, Sri S. G. Sastry, Sri M. S. Subramanya Sastry, Sri V. Sitaramahiah and others; (b) *ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ* various forms of literary composition written by the College students and

DEPARTMENT OF KANNADA



SRI D. L. NARASIMHACHAR



SRI G. P. RAJARATHNAM

SRI B. N. SASTRY



KARNATAKA SANGHA

DEPARTMENT OF KANNADA



SRI GARANI KRISHNACHAR



SRI T. S. VENKANNAIYA



SRI A. R. KRISHNA SASTRY



SRI V. SITARAMIAH

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Members of staff—past and present—of this department have distinguished themselves by their service and publications.

Sri T. S. Venkannaiya was the first to be appointed as Professor of Kannada at Mysore. He deceased prematurely in 1939. He was like the traditional banyan tree to his students, friends and fellow-workers. Though he did not write much, what he wrote was worthy of respect. His editions of 'Basava Raja Devara Ragale' and 'Kadambari Sangraha' have been models for others to emulate.

Sri A. R. Krishna Sastry succeeded Sri Venkannaiya as Professor of Kannada and retired after a long and useful period of service. 'Prabuddha Karnataka' once again, at Mysore, came under his loving care. His books like 'Bhasakavi', 'Samskrita Nataka' written while he was in service and his books 'Vachana Bharata' and 'Kathamrita' written after his retirement are monumental works, that have increased the prestige of modern Kannada Literature.

These two great sons of the Kannada mother have been described as 'the Aswins of Modern Kannada Literature'!

Sri K. V. Puttappa, who went from here to become the Professor of Kannada at Mysore, in course of time became the

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Sri V. Sitaramiah, well known poet and critic, is also the author of 'Hana Prapancha' in Kannada. He was one of the earlier builders of 'Prabuddha Karnataka' and later he edited that journal for a number of years. After his retirement, the Bangalore Station of the All India Radio utilised his services as Producer of the spoken word. A new collection of his poems 'Hejje—Padu' is scheduled to be published by the Sangha in commemoration of the Central College Centenary Celebrations.

Sri D. L. Narasimhachar, an old boy of this College has been walking in the foot step of Sri R. Narasimhachar, one of the great scholars of our language. His researches into our language, literature and history have enriched our field of knowledge. His editions of old classics like 'Vaddaradhane', 'Siddha Rama Chari-
the new lease of life to works that had gone into oblivion. His contributions to the Kannada Lexicon under preparation by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat are of great value. He is at present the Professor of Kannada at Mysore.

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Sri K. Venkataramappa is well-known more as a popular orator than as a writer. But the few articles he has written, the translations from Telugu that he has published, and his condensations of the Kannada Bharata and Bhagavata have endeared him to all. He is, at present, the Assistant Professor in the Bangalore Intermediate College.

Sri L. Gundappa is renowned for his translation of Tolstoi's stories as well as the Plays of Bhasa. In addition to his scholarship in Kannada and Sanskrit, his mastery over Tamil is mirrored in his translation of the 'Tirukkural' and 'Nalmani Kadukku' etc. He has also translated C.R.'s Mahabharata from Tamil into Kannada. Recently he was

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Sri D. Javare Gowda has written a few biographies and translated a few from English. His 'Vachana Chandrike' is a prose version of Kuvempu's 'Ramayana Darshana', and serves as an attractive introduction to the epic. He is now the Controller of Examinations, University of Mysore.

Sri G. P. Rajaratnam, who is the head of the Department at present has some original creations to his credit. His translations from the Buddhistic and Jainistic texts have a charm of their own. His experiments in popularising the ancient and modern literary masterpieces have been well received both in the College and outside.

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SANSKRIT

THE HISTORY OF THE SANSKRIT DEPARTMENT in the Central College may be divided into two periods, the age of the Pundits and the age of the Lecturers. Up to the establishment of the Mysore University it was, more or less, the age of the Pundits. The word Pundit conveys, undoubtedly, the ideas of deep learning, piety, religious fervour and devotion to duty. Termed as Vernacular Departments, all the Second language departments, such as Kannada, Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil were under the charge of eminent pundits, who were, as a rule, primarily great San-

skrit Scholars, and Specialists in their Vernacular subjects. Some of the Sanskrit Pundits taught Kannada efficiently and some of the Kannada Pundits taught Sanskrit equally well. It was not the dearth of the teachers that forced this arrangement, but the deep scholarship of those teachers convinced the authorities to approve of this plan, to the greater benefit of the students.

There is no chance of Sanskrit being one of the optional subjects in a Science College. Sanskrit, therefore, is taught here

OTHER DEPARTMENTS



SRI S. SUBBARAYA
(Sanskrit)



SRI P. BALASUBRAMANYAM
(Tamil)



SRI CHENGALVARAYAN
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OTHER DEPARTMENTS



SRI VISWANATHA SASTRY
(*Telugu*)



DR. HIRANMAYA
(*Hindī*)



SRI MIR MOHAMED BADSHAH
(*Urdu and Persian*)



SRI M. R. RAMANNA
(*Physical Education*)

only as a second language. Judged from the number of students that take Sanskrit as second language, Sanskrit is only next to Kannada in popularity. At present there are 280 students that have taken Sanskrit as their second language and the number of Sanskrit students is increasing year by year. This language will play its just part in the progress and prosperity of our Motherland.

It may not be out of place if a reference is made to the observation contained in the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir of the Central College in 1936. "In the second language," the report says, "Kannada and Sanskrit led; the majority of boys were distributed between them. Pundits with old world piety and deep scholarship kindled love of their language and literature in a few breasts, but the generality took these classes in a light spirit, as a period of rest between strenuous work in the English and Science classes." In this respect, the attitude of the students is not perceptibly changing.

H. H. Highness, the late Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the late Chhatrapati of the University observed:

"I am particularly interested too in the means which are being adopted to

encourage the study of Sanskrit I trust that the University will do all in its power to foster the study of our mother-tongue and of Sanskrit, two languages, which must always command the sympathy and interest of all the educated Maharathis."

Following the observation, the University created an Assistant Professorship in Sanskrit in the College. Sanskrit was patiently awaiting similar encouragement and ultimately a post of an Assistant Professor has been sanctioned to the Central College in 1957, 99 years after the birth of the Institution!

A list of Heads of this Department is given below:

Sriyuths—

- C. Visweswara Sastry.
- M. T. Narasimhaiengar, B.A., M.R.A.S.
- D. Srinivasachar, M.A.
- M. K. Tirunarayanaiengar.
- Saralakavisuri Rajagopala Chakravarti.
- M. Lakshminarasimhaiah, M.A.
- K. Raghavachari, M.A.
- V. T. Tirumalaranga Iengar, M.A.
- N. Srinivasachari, M.A.
- S. Ramachandrarao, M.A.
- G. Mahalingachari, M.A.
- S. Subbarao, M.A.

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TELUGU

THE TELUGU DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN existence ever since the Central College started. L. Srinivasachar was the first Pandit of the Central College, till 1932. He belonged to the old school and

was a good scholar in Telugu and in Sanskrit and Dwietha Vedantha.

From 1932 to 1946 Sri V. Venkatadri Sharma was the Head of the Telugu

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(Telinga)



DR. JHRANMAYA
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From 1932 to 1946 Sri V. Venkatadri Sharma was the Head of the Telugu

Department. He was a good scholar in Telugu, Sanskrit, Alankara, Purva Mimamsa and Uthara Mimamsa. He had published a few books in Telugu and there are some unpublished manuscripts of his. After Mr. Venkatadri Sharma, Sri V. Venkataraghavaiah was the Head of the Department of Telugu. Mr. Venkataraghavaiah was the first recipient of M.O.L. Degree in Telugu in Madras University. He did extensive research work on various subjects in Telugu Literature.

From 1950 onwards *Vidwan Vyakarna Vidhyapravina* Sri V. Viswanatha Sastry is the Head of the Telugu Department. He is a good scholar in Telugu and Sanskrit. He studied Vyakarana, Nyaya and Mimamsa in the traditional method. There are many essays of criticism written by him in manuscript form.

The Telugu Department is growing gradually year after year and Telugu Samithi of Central College is conducting many functions every year.

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TAMIL

THE ORIGIN OF THE TAMIL DEPARTMENT of the Central College could be traced to the later part of the 19th century.

Sri N. A. Ramanujachariar was in charge of the department for a decade, that is, till the end of 1934. He was a pious and religious minded man brought up in the old traditional method. He was a great scholar in Tamil and Sanskrit.

In the year 1935 after the demise of Sri Ramanujachariar, Sri S. Rudrapathy, M.A., of Annamalai University was appointed as the head of the department of Tamil. Sri Rudrapathy was a great scholar in Tamil and was the author of many works in Tamil. He was a great orator in Tamil and he toured far and wide not only in Tamilnad but in Ceylon and Malaya also. He was like a missionary in spreading Saiva Siddhanta in Mysore State. Under his able guidance the Tamil Department grew from strength

to strength. Mr. Rudrapathy passed away in February 1958.

Mr. N. Chengalvarayan was the head of the department of Tamil in Central College during the years 1940 to 1945. During his time the first Mysore State Literary Conference under the auspices of the Tamil Sangham was convened in December 1941. The Conference was opened by the late S. Sathyamurthy and presided over by late T. K. Chidambarnatha Mudaliar. He also brought out a Tamil Magazine in commemoration of the Eighth Anniversary of the Tamil Sangham in 1943. After 15 years he came back as the head of the Department of Tamil in Central College and retired from service on the 24th of June 1958.

In the month of July 1958 Mr. P. Balasubramanian, B.A. (Hons.), of Annamalai University was appointed Head of the Department of Tamil in Central College. He is a good scholar and enthusiastic.

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1. Origin and Development

WITH THE INCLUSION OF HINDI AS A subject of study under Compulsory Second Languages, the Department of Hindi came into existence during the academic year 1948-49. Later on permission was granted to offer Hindi as a Minor subject for the Honours Course in Arts. Hindi class which was started with only two students in the first year gained strength steadily year after year, the present strength being 122.

2. Staff

The Lecturer in Hindi who is on the staff of the Intermediate College is in charge of the Department of Hindi in the Central College also. Dr. Hiranmaya, M.A., Ph.D., "Sahityaratna" is the Head of the Department of Hindi since its inception in 1948 except for a period of about 2½ years. In his absence Sri Jayashantaswamy, M.A., was in charge of the Department. Shri Hiranmaya was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Hindi by the Banaras Hindu University in December 1956. Besides this, Dr. Hiranmaya has been contributing articles in Hindi on various topics pertaining to Kannada Language and Literature to Hindi Literary Journals of North India.

Under the auspices of the Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters), Government of India, New Delhi, Dr. Hiranmaya translated into Hindi a

historical Kannada Novel "Shantala" by Professor K. V. Iyer and he rendered into Hindi ten poems of reputed Kannada poets for being included in "Bharatiya Kavita—1953" (Indian Poetry—1953). He has completed the translation of "Raktakshi", a historical drama by Dr. K. V. Puttappa.

3. Hindi Sahitya Samiti

This is an association of Hindi students of both the Intermediate College and Central College established in 1949 with a view to fostering literary taste in Hindi and creating proper opportunities for developing the art of speaking in Hindi. The Samiti has a small Executive Committee annually constituted with the Lecturer in Hindi as its President and Treasurer. The total number of members of the Samiti on the roll during the current year is 150. The main features of the activities of the association are :

- (i) Conducting debates in Hindi.
- (ii) Arranging lectures and readings in Hindi by scholars.
- (iii) Arranging contests in recitation, speech making, essay writing, play acting, etc.
- (iv) Staging dramas in Hindi.
- (v) Arranging inaugural and valedictory addresses.
- (vi) Celebrating Poets' day.
- (vii) Arranging seminars in Hindi.



URDU AND PERSIAN

THE FIRST LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT since the institution attained the status of a College was Mr. Qader Mohiyuddin. Some of the old students who were fortunate to learn under him praise his knowledge and learning very much.

It seems the Urdu-Persian Association was started by about 1925. Mr. Md. Ahmad, B.A., present Secretary to the Education Department was instrumental in its organisation and as a demonstrator in the Geology Department he took keen interest in the activities of the Association which owed its origin to his efforts. Among the old boys who distinguished themselves are :

- (1) *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, *Ex-Dewan* of Mysore.
- (2) Late Mr. Hamza Hussain, who retired as a *Dewan* of Mysore.

Several old students rose to high official positions in the service of the Government

Since 1930 the teachers of the department have been :

- (1) Mr. H. R. Abdul Majeed, M.A.
- (2) Mr. H. M. Jalaluddin, M.A.,
- (3) Mr. M. M. Ali Badshah, M.A. (since 1956).

The teams of this College participated in many debates and won prizes.



FRENCH AND GERMAN

FRENCH AND GERMAN HAVE BEEN TAUGHT in Central College for a very considerable time. Ever since India became independent, however, there has been an increased desire amongst students as well as others, to learn foreign languages.

This was one of the reasons why, in 1952, Two Years' Diploma Courses in German were introduced instead of the one year's course in this language, that was compulsory for students of the B.Sc. Hons. classes. The Diploma Courses serve not only students of the college, but also members of the teaching staff and people

from all kinds of professions. Amongst the students are engineers, scientists and businessmen. Also the Humanities and Medicine are represented. The courses aim at giving students a sound basis of knowledge both of the spoken and written language. The requirements of the students vary considerably, some of them needing a knowledge of German for further studies and research, others being more interested in being able to speak and write. The courses can, therefore, not confine themselves to any one aspect of the study of German, as *e.g.*, the reading of scientific literature, but have to give



LADY STUDENTS, 1958



STUDENTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, 1958

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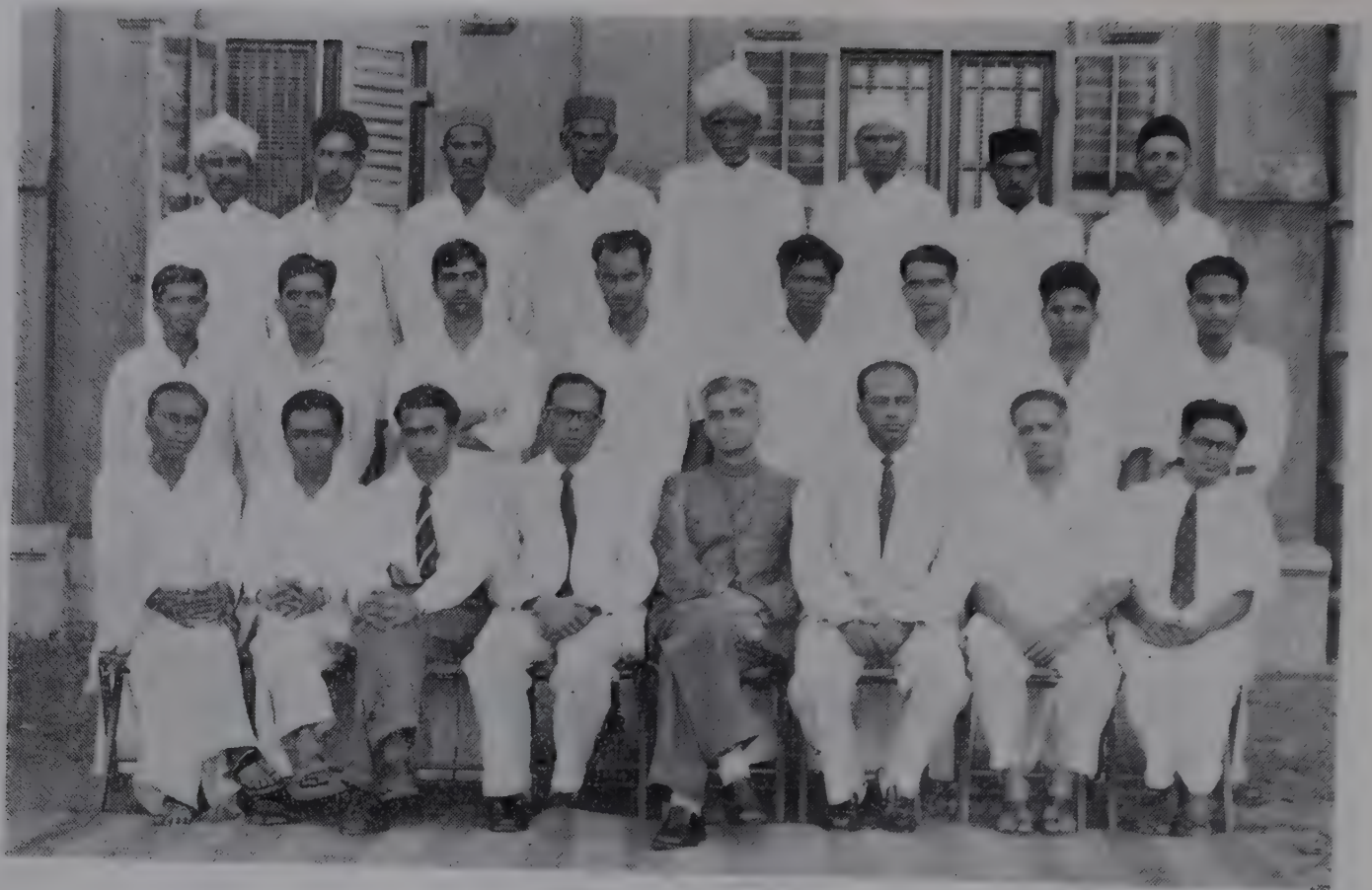
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and attention to all possible aspects. The German the Diploma Examination consists of translations (both ways) of literary as well as general passages, and conversation and letter-writing. There is also a *Viva Voce* Examination to test the comprehension of spoken German, and the ability of the candidate to express himself in the language. Courses of this nature would not be complete if they did not at least at times include a glimpse of German literature and culture. This is done as far as time permits.—Unfortunately many applicants have to be disappointed at admission-time. Only a limited number of students can be admitted every year, as classes must not be too big if the students are to benefit as much as they should. We could easily run parallel classes, if the teacher did not, in addition to the German Diploma Courses, have to teach French as well.

French is a Second language for students of Central College. Here the number is small for the practical reason that few schools teach foreign languages, and therefore few students enter the University. There is, however, a pronounced desire amongst students to do so, and those who have occasionally been permitted to start their studies of French in

the University, have usually been our best students. They had to work rather hard, but they did not mind because they were interested. As long as we had only two hours per week at our disposal, the course of studies had naturally to be exclusively "bookish". Now, with 4 hours per week, we can pay a little more attention to the spoken language. The study of literature will be helped by this.

Diploma Courses in French, on the same line as those in German, would be sure of having a large number of students, and so would Second Language courses in German, if we could introduce them.

Although the individual student's desire to learn foreign languages usually has, in the first instance, very practical reasons (research, further studies in foreign countries, etc.), there is another angle from which the teaching of foreign languages must be viewed: approached in the right way, it represents an important way towards creating an appreciative understanding of peoples of various races and nationalities, which is one of the first prerequisites of peace. Without neglecting the intensely practical needs of its students, the Department of Modern European Languages sees its highest aim in serving this great human task.

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GENERAL LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE IS AS OLD as the College itself. It had a small beginning when the College was only a High School. The class teachers issued the few books that there were to the students

under restricted conditions. Only those students who were thought fit to make use of them were allowed the use of these books. In those days the motto in regard to books appears to have been rather



SERVICE STAFF, 1958



GENERAL LIBRARY STAFF, 1958

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“preservation for posterity” than “present use”.

Ever since, the General Library has been steadily growing and expanding. The several departments of the College have their separate departmental libraries. The General Library became gradually a reservoir of all books of general interest to students and staff. The General Library contains books in different languages. It is open to all the members of the staff, students and ministerial staff of the College. Today hundreds of books are lent out each day from the General Library. The reference books are also consulted by a large section of the students every day.

Though the library is accommodated in a large hall the library has grown so large that the authorities have taken up the question of putting up a separate building to accommodate the ever increasing number of books.

In the year 1934, there were about eight thousand books in the General Library.

Today the number of books in the General Library is twenty-two thousand nine hundred and thirty-three. In addition to this there are about twenty-five thousand books in the libraries of the different Science Departments. Many important journals in different languages are made available to the students and staff.

The following are the figures of books relating to loans and references :

(1)	Total number of books loaned out during 1957-58	14,559
(2)	Total number of books issued for reference in 1957-58	1,287

The several donations of books to the General Library from distinguished persons and cultural foundations are gratefully acknowledged. We are particularly grateful to the University Grants Commission for the liberal grants sanctioned to the Library in recent years.

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HOSTEL

THE IDEA OF STARTING THE CENTRAL College Hostel germinated in the mind of Late Dr. John Cook, the then Principal of Central College, when he found that the students were living in slummy areas of Bangalore. The ravages of an epidemic in 1898 acted as a trigger and the then Principal—late Dr. Cook—moved the Government of Mysore to acquire the land which was attached to the then Kitchetty Choultry adjoining the Central College. His active interest culminated in building

two blocks which were completed in 1900. These two blocks could accommodate 96 students. The two blocks with associated kitchens and outhouses were duly handed over to the Principal so as to enable him to start the hostel on 1st February 1901. The response from the students was great and this incidentally was the index of the great need for a hostel to look to the convenience of students, especially those who came from the mofussil.

In order to look after the students and aid the Principal (who was the *ex-officio* President) in the internal management of the hostel, a full time Superintendent was appointed. The first Superintendent Sri B. Venkatadasappa served the hostel from 1901—1908 ; subsequently the Government of Mysore wanted the hostels of the State to be self-supporting institutions and consequently the College Hostel was converted into a grant-in-aid institution. Since 1908, the Principal has been assisted by a resident warden who is a member of the College staff, in managing the affairs of the hostel.

To cope with the number of students who desired to stay in the hostel, a new block—known as Prasanna Kumar block (after late C. Prasanna Kumar, Assistant Professor of Geology and the Warden of the hostel) was constructed in 1947. Later a block of rooms popularly known as Andaman block was also constructed. Even then, there has been a greater demand year after year for seats in the hostel. At present there are 230 students representing various educational institutions in the City enjoying the facilities of the hostel.

The activities of the hostel in the fields of literature and sports give ample chance for the boarders to build up their brain and brawn. Lectures on Art, Literature and Science are arranged periodically by the Literary Secretary. The boarders with literary and debating talents are sent to various competitions. Sports—both indoor and outdoor, keep most of the boarders busy. Off and on sportsmen of outstanding merit have stayed in the hostel. This has encouraged young sportsmen of the hostel. In order to foster brotherhood amongst the students residing in various hostels of the City, 3 rolling shields were

instituted in 1957, one for Badminton, another for Volleyball and another for Basketball. This gave opportunity for other hostellers to mingle with the Central College hostel students. The hostel caters primarily to Central College and Intermediate College students and secondarily to institutions like Commerce College, Medical School and other institutions which do not have hostels of their own. This heterogenous assemblage of students gives the hostellers of various backgrounds a chance to come together and learn to live together as brethren in their formative age. In connection with the “Mahaganapathy Mangalarathi” the traditional procession and dinner are of a high order. The hostel day celebrations are a 2-day affair, with intense sports and social activities.

The generosity of the hostellers is expressed in feeding free poor and deserving students. A committee is formed every year to select the poor students from every institution.

The problem of accommodation has been very acute. Prof. S. B. Bondade, the present President of the hostel, has been planning to extend the Prasanna Kumar block on 3 sides so as to enclose a quadrangle which could be conveniently used for large gatherings. The Mysore Government Architect and Assistant Architect have kindly drawn a nice plan to specifications and the same is forwarded to the University. There are other plans of the President like approaching the University Grants Commission for a loan. There are plans to renovate the present kitchens, improve lighting installations, to build separate sports and reading rooms, to grow a nice garden and to have nice furniture.

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SPORTS AND CENTRAL COLLEGE

THE HISTORY OF SPORTS IN CENTRAL College is one of great brilliance, sustained over the entire period of its existence, starting with the first Tennis Trophies won in 1888 by Messrs. N. Chinnaiah and C. Subbaiya at Madras. During the early periods, Cricket and Tennis were the only two games that were very popular. Football and Hockey were introduced much later. Both Jayaram and Srinivasa Rao captained the College Cricket team.

For over a dozen years from 1888 the Central College was the despair of all opposing teams, local as well as from outside, both in Cricket and Tennis. But for the deep and sustained interest shown in Games by that domineering Principal, Mr. J. G. Tait—himself a player of no ordinary merit—the Central College players could not have risen and built up such a fine foundation on which the sports reputation was built. It is not possible to overestimate the influence he wielded over the Institution with his strong personality. It was this personal contact and encouragement that enabled the College to win the Brandt Hutchins Trophy winning it successfully for 3 years in succession—1893, 1894 and 1895. Other courageous and chivalrous College Captains of the past include Major K. R. K. Iyengar, S. D. S. Iyengar, T. Ramachandra Rao, N. T. Shamanna, M. Venkatachar and others. From 1894 to 1899 K. T. Sudarsanam Iyengar a left-arm medium pace bowler completely mesmerised his

opposing batsman with his leg breaks which he was able to control at will, and as a slip fielder he had few equals. T. Singaravelu Mudaliar was the best all-rounder of his time. T. V. A. Iswaran, M. L. Narasimha Iyengar, Sri P. Medappa, T. Abdul Khader, A. Subba Rao and C. N. Shama were the other all-rounders. Later those who contributed to the status of Central College Cricket were B. Bhasker, A. C. Devaraj, K. Seshadri and Charles Pichamuthu. The Standard of College Cricket steadily improved owing to the encouragement given to the game by Sriyuts M. G. Srinivasa Rao, M. Sesha Iyengar, C. K. Sundarachar, K. S. K. Iyengar and C. S. Pichamuthu. During the years 1924-30 the Central College Cricket team turned out to be the strongest in the State. The College then had the best batting, bowling and fielding side and it was no wonder that the college never lost a single match. It was during this period that the Central College appointed a Cricket Coach, Sri B. V. Ramakrishnappa, who did yeoman service to Central College Cricket. S. Darashah and B. R. Nagaraja Rao played in the Madras Presidency match and acquitted themselves very well. Shyamasunder is the only Mysore Cricketer who has completed 1,000 runs in Ranji Trophy matches. Recently T. D. Krishna, a Central College student, captained the Mysore State Cricket XI. T. Thimmaiah and V. M. Muddaiah are others who have distinguished themselves as all-rounders.



PHYSICAL CULTURE COMMITTEE, 1958



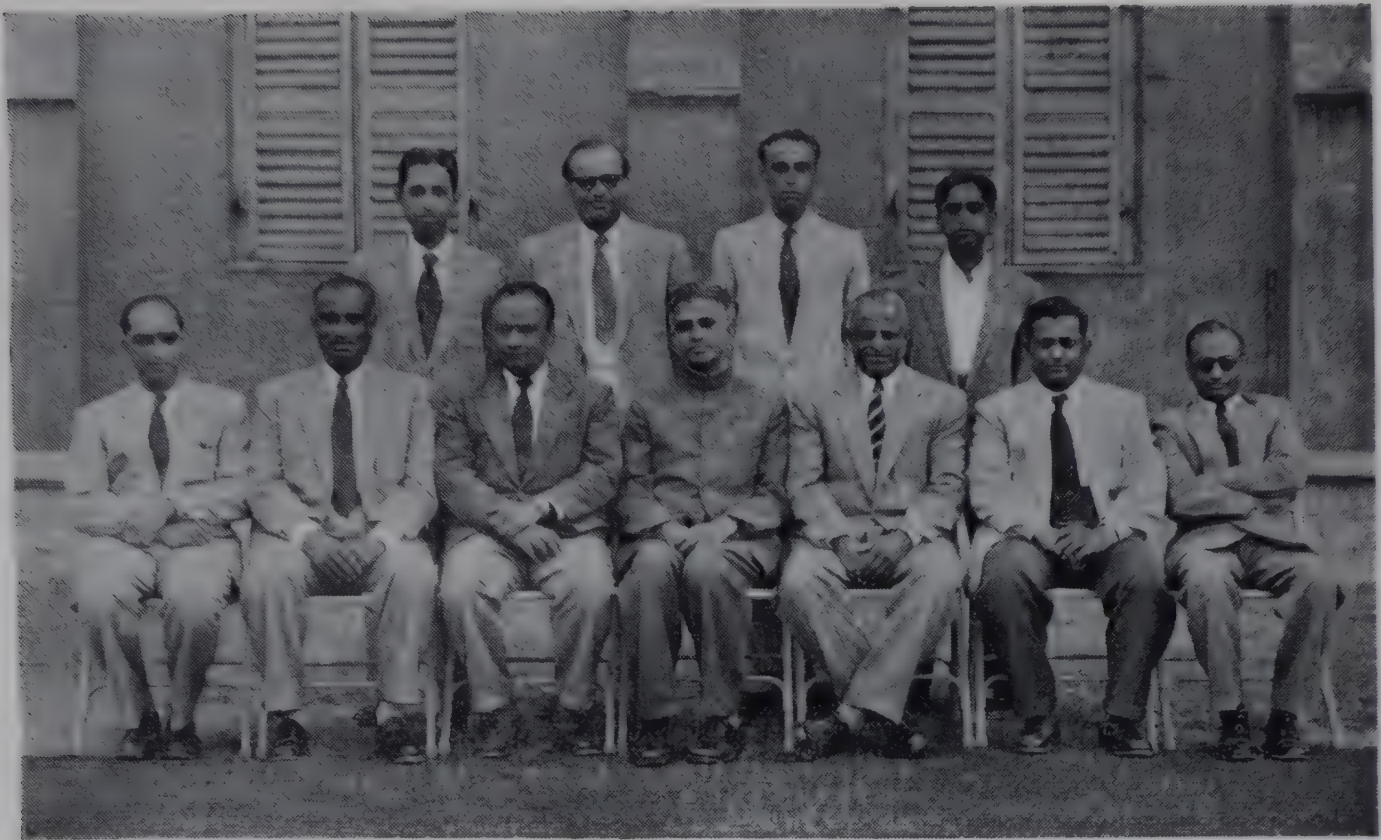
CAPTAINS OF GAMES AND ATHLETICS, 1958

SPORTS AND CENTRAL COLLEGE

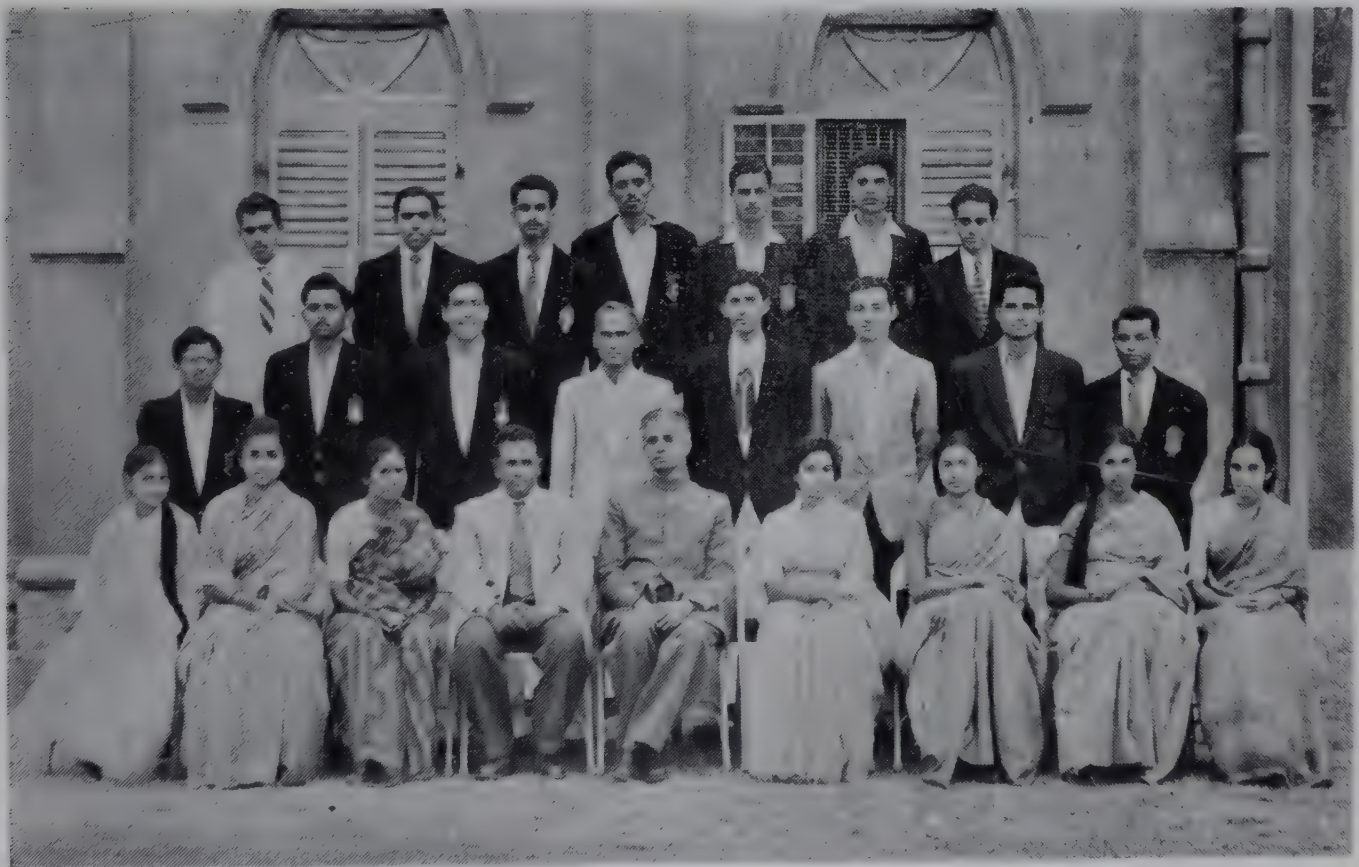
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PHYSICAL CULTURE COMMITTEE, 1958



CAPTAINS—GAMES AND ATHLETICS, 1958



M. G. S. WRESTLING CHAMPIONS, 1958



M. G. S. AQUATIC CHAMPIONS, 1958

The first turf wicket on the Central College was laid by Vijayasarathi and has been an outstanding success.

During 1898-1899 G. Sreedhara Murthy won for the College an unbeaten record in Tennis. Among the distinguished Tennis Players mention may be made of Sriyuts R. S. Raja Iyer, E. V. Ganapathi Iyer, C. M. Sitaram, B. Ananthaswami Rao, B. S. Raja Iyengar, R. S. Chandrasekhar, B. S. Rama Rao, A. C. Devaraj, B. R. Kapanipathi, M. G. Chakrapani Naidu, K. S. Shadaksharappa and B. R. Basavaraj.

Prominent among the Football players of the past were Sriyuts P. Sampath Iyengar, S. V. Setty, K. Siddaramappa, M. L. Narasimha Iyengar, B. S. Keshava Vittal, V. P. Vasudevan, G. N. Anniah, T. V. Subbaraya Mudaliar, A. C. Devaraj, S. Raja Iyengar, B. H. Srikantiah, M. G. Vijayasarathi, P. Venkatasubba Rao, H. S. Ramachar and M. S. Shantappa. With the coming of Mohamed Yaseen ~~the College's football team~~ reached its zenith. Central College is fortunate in having uniformly good teams in Football and producing class players to the State teams such as Krishna Jetty, Balakrishna Murthy, Sheik Ahmad, etc.

Hockey grew in popularity during the twenties when B. G. Kosalram, V. S. Ramachandra Rao, R. Venkata Rao, P. Venkata Subba Rao and A. C. Devaraj built a reputation. B. S. Madhava Rao later made the game more popular. It was during 1936-37 that the Central College won their first major Tournament, the Red Triangle Hockey Cup. During recent years the College Hockey team has

been maintaining the reputation built up by the predecessors.

In Gymnastics and Athletice the reputation of the College has always been very high. M. G. Rama Rao and G. N. Annaiya were leading figures in the earlier years. During the thirties Madhuranathan touched a high standard in Gymnastics. The starting of a Gymnasium with M. R. Ramanna as its Instructor during the thirties opened a new era of activities. In the first Mysore State Olympics (1926-27) M. G. Vijayasarathi won the Individual Championship and was later selected to take part in the All India Meet at Calcutta. He again won the championship in 1930 and distinguished himself in Mysore State Olympics. Syed Murtuza who specialised in High Jump and Hurdles distinguished himself as an athlete. The College is proud of the distinguished athletes like Muthiah, Muthappa, Jagadish, K. S. R. Naidu and others. This year we are fortunate in having outstanding athletes such as Dorairajan and A. G. Srikanth. The latter won the individual championship in M. G. S. Memorial Zonal Meet held in Bangalore recently. C. M. Muthiah stands supreme in his ability and skill that have made him the Decathlon Champion of the country.

Basket-ball was introduced in 1930 and the Central Collegians have made rapid progress and have distinguished themselves in Inter-Varsity and Inter provincial matches. Mention may be made of the following distinguished players: Sriyuts Bharadwaj, Vijayaraghavan, Pandu, Keshava Rao, Srinivasa Iyengar, K. V. Chandrasekhar, V. Byrappa and J. Aswatha Rao. Sri Byrappa has been an



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official for the Basket ball Federation of India and Official Referee on the All-India Panel while J. Aswatha Rao has been one of the Inter-national Umpires.

The Central College has been fortunate to have distinguished Volley-Ball Players such as C. Krishna Rao, Kenche Gowda, Viswanathiah and Shankaranarayanappa. Shankaranarayanappa represented India at Paris and figured prominently in Inter-provincial and Inter-Varsity matches.

Indigenous Games like Kho-kho, Kabaddi and Wrestling have also been introduced and the college players have been doing very well. Recently the College Swimming and Wrestling Teams have done their best to bring credit to the College and the Wrestling team has annexed the M. G. S. Memorial Wrestling Shield for the first time to the College this year.

Provision has been made for lady students of the College to participate in Games and Athletics.

The College Sportsmen, Sportswomen and Athletes have been trying their best to bring laurels to their Alma Mater. In this great endeavour they have been helped by the valuable guidance of the Principal and President, Prof. S. B. Bondade, the General Secretary, Sri A. Mohamed Khan, the Sectional Secretaries, Sriyuts M. G. Chakrapani Naidu, M. Munigaviappa, K. S. Siddalingiah, B. Chandrasekhara, K. N. Srinivasa Rao, T. K. Chandrasekhariah and C. N. Narasimha Murthy, the Director of Physical Education, Capt. M. G. Vijaya-sarathy, the Assistant Director of Physical Education, Sri M. R. Ramanna, the Instructor, Sri H. Dayakara Raju and the Instructress Sm. Emily Theresa Arpudam.

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NATIONAL CADET CORPS

IN THE YEAR 1948, THE GOVERNMENT OF India approved the recommendations of the National Cadet Corps Committee under the Chairmanship of Pandit H. N. Kunzru and soon the N.C.C. Act was passed in the Parliament. The aim of the N.C.C. is to provide training in discipline and develop qualities of leadership and devotion to service in the national cause, and to help in building up a potential reserve of officers for the three defence services. The N.C.C. consists of three divisions, senior division which imparts training to the undergraduates from Univer-

sities, the junior division for school boys between 13 and 17 years, and the girls division for students of the Universities and schools. The junior and senior divisions are composed of 3 wings—Army, Naval and Air wings.

In August 1948, the Mysore Government implemented the scheme and raised a two company Battalion, i.e., 1st Mysore Battalion N.C.C. of the army wing with the Central College as headquarters. The University Training Corps (U.T.C.) which was then existing was merged in the

N.C.C. organisation. Capt. S. R. Shaw was posted as the Commanding Officer to the 1st Mysore Battalion N.C.C. from the regular Army. Messrs. M. G. Vijayasarithi, H. R. Srinivasachar, M. R. Narasimha Prasad, D. N. Rajanna, M. Appaswamy Rao and B. N. Bole Gowda, members of staff from Central College, were selected as Officer-cadets in November 1948 and were deputed to undergo Pre-commission training for 3 months in the Mysore Infantry Training Centre. After successful completion of training they were commissioned as 2/Lieutenants in the Defence Ministry and were posted to command platoons/companies of the 1st Mysore Battalion N.C.C. Later Lt. M. G. Vijayasarathy and Lt. H. R. Srinivasachar were promoted as Captains in February 1955 and February 1957, respectively. Capt. M. G. Vijayasarathy was selected as full time Administrative Officer and he served in that capacity from 1954 to 1958. After serving the unit for about seven years, Lt. D. N. Rajanna, Lt. M. R. Narasimha Prasad, Lt. M. Appaswamy Rao and Lt. B. N. Bolegowda left for the United States of America for higher studies. Recently Mr. K. M. Gurappa was commissioned at 2/Lieutenant and was posted to 1st Mysore Battalion N.C.C. At present opportunity is provided for 90 students of Central College to undergo training in the N.C.C. In 1951 Major P. G. Ganapathi took over the command of the Unit and in 1954 he was succeeded by Major C. R. Singh who is at present commanding the unit.

The cadets of the army wing of senior division are given training in small arms,

citizenship, public-speaking, platoon and section leading. A few students of Central College are also given opportunity to join the Air Wing N.C.C. where training in theoretical and practical flying and gliding are imparted. With the help of flying clubs, the cadets obtain 'A' Flying licences at Government expense.

Every year during X'mas holidays the officers and the cadets attend the annual camp for two weeks, when intensive training is imparted. They also complete the range practices and certificate examinations. N.C.C., among other duties, undertakes social service work of various kinds. In fact, social service has become an integral part of training of cadets, through conducting camps during the vacation. It is gratifying to note that the students of the Central College have fully realised their place and responsibility in Independent India and have given a positive lead to the youth of the country in the field of selfless work and voluntary labour by attending the social service camps held during the summer vacation of every year.

In order to bring the organisation in close touch with the public, N.C.C. Day is celebrated during December every year, when ceremonial parade is held and the parents of N.C.C. cadets are invited to witness the festival. N.C.C. contingents are also included in the combined ceremonial parade during 'Independence' and 'Republic' Day Celebrations at Bangalore and Delhi. The cadets of the Central College have participated in all these parades.

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SCOUTING

TWO YEARS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF Scouting in the Mysore State, in the year 1920, the late Mr. B. T. Krishniengar, evidently one of the early victims of 'short pants' attempted to start Scouting for the students of the Central College. Thereafter in November 1923, Professor C. K. Sundarachar was the first formally to bring into existence a unit of Scouts in the College under the name of "The University Rover Corps". Professor Sundarachar was the active Scout-master, while the late Dr. E. P. Metcalfe and the late Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran joined the Corps as Honorary Scout Masters and rendered great encouragement to Scouting in the College.

Professor L. Narayana Rao took charge of the Corps as Scout Master in 1929 and he was later succeeded by Professor S. V. Ranganna in July 1933. The name of the Scout Corps was then changed to 'The University Rovers'. The year 1933-34 was one of observation and experiment so as to bring Scouting in the College in line with the policy, organisation and rules of the State Association. Accordingly after bringing out a revised procedure for the organisation of Scouting in the whole University, the Central College Unit, together with similar such units was also started at this time. All the other University Institutions in Bangalore were all brought under 'The University Scout Group, Bangalore.'

With the organisation of the University Scout District in 1934, Scouting in the University became an integral part of the State Association, and received financial and other benefits from the State Headquarters, in addition to the munificent grants which it was already receiving since 1924 from the University of Mysore.

The University Scout group in Bangalore celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1946 when Dr. Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar the then Dewan of Mysore inaugurated and presided over the function. In 1951 the University District as a whole undertook the organisation of the Second Mysore State Rover Meet on behalf of the State Headquarters and Col. C. P. Jayawardana, C.M.I.G., C.B.O., O.B.E., Chief Commissioner of Ceylon, presided over the function. The Rovers Meet was a great success and representative Rover Units came from other Associations in India like Bengal and Bihar.

The University Rover Scouts of the Central College and sister institutions in Bangalore have always kept the motto of service in the forefront. They have rendered most valuable service at all important functions connected with the College such as the Indian Science Congress Sessions held in Bangalore, the Central College Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and other various large sports

meets in Bangalore, from time to time and also at various public functions. As part of their routine training, they have laid emphasis on Second and First class work in Scouting and First-Aid under the St. John's Ambulance Association. Musketry training which was at one time one of the major activities under the University Scout group, was given up in subsequent years with the establishment of the University Training Corps when the College Scouts were also members of these organizations and so had larger opportunities for training in the use of fire arms.

It is very appropriate to mention here the active interest evinced in the work of the College Scouts and the great support given to the well-being of the scout group by the Principals and the staff members of the College. From the days of the late Dr. Metcalfe successive Principals of the College including the late Professor Sell, late Professor McAlpine, Professor Mackintosh, Professor Venkateshachar, Professor C. R. Narayana Rao, late Professor A. Subba Rao, Professor B. Sanjiva Rao, Professor L. Rama Rao, Professor B. S. Madhava Rao and the present Principal Professor S. B. Bondade, have rendered most valuable services to the cause of Scouting in the College. Among the members of the staff who have actively associated with the Scout group as leaders may be mentioned Professor C. K. Sundarachar, Professor L. N. Rao, Professor S. V. Ranganna,

Professor L. Sibaiya, the late Dr. H. L. Hariyappa, Mr. H. R. Abdul Majeed, the late Professor S. Muthuswamy of the Engineering College, Dr. P. Krishna Rao of the Medical School, Dr. S. B. Kausik and Mr. T. Thatachar. Dr. H. R. Srinivasachar is at present in charge of the Central College unit.

The Principals of the other University Colleges in Bangalore have also taken from time to time an active part in the work of the University Scout group. Prominent among these are Dr. B. K. Narayana Rao, Dr. Miss M. C. Albuquerque, Professor E. K. Ramaswamy and Professor Srinagabhushana who continues to be the President of the Bangalore University Unit.

In conclusion the encouragement given to University Scouting by the University of Mysore, which is the only University in India which has actively sponsored scouting within its jurisdiction, must be specially mentioned. The University authorities have been very generous in providing grants, but in recent years with the growth of Scouting in the colleges, the grants have become inadequate for all the activities undertaken by the Scouts. One of the pressing needs of the University Scout group in Bangalore, namely the possession of a suitable building for its various activities remains still unfulfilled.

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THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED

A Brief Report of its Activities

THE IDEA OF STARTING A CO-OPERATIVE Society for the benefit of students and staff of the College was suggested by Prof. S. B. Bondade and Prof. P. H. Nagappa. The above society was registered on 26th November 1955 and started its work in the month of January 1956 and held its first General Body Meeting on 14th March 1956. The jurisdiction of the society extends to the students and staff, past and present of the Central College.

The objects of the society are to promote thrift, self-help and co-operation among its members ; to establish and run a co-operative stores for purchase and sale of articles required by its members ; to advance loan to its members ; to purchase sites and to sell them to its members ; to start a provident fund Scheme for the benefit of its members ; to establish and run canteen, etc., at reasonable charges to its members.

The capital of the society is five lakhs, divided into 50,000 shares of Rs. 10 each, of which 842 shares have already been subscribed for.

The society is prospering well, the total turn-over being a lakh of rupees per year. The society has earned so far a net profit of Rs. 10,977.76 nP. from which it has

built up a reserve fund of Rs. 2,800.00 and has donated Rs. 735.00 towards the permanent Poor Boys' Fund of the College.

We have to remember with gratitude the services rendered by various persons in different capacities to the society for its establishment and improvement. Prof. S. B. Bondade, President of the society, has always been evincing a keen interest in the development and progress of the society. But for the business acumen and enthusiasm of our Ex-Secretaries, Dr. S. Siddappa and Sri G. R. Chandrasekhar, the society could not have done so much of business and earned so much of profit, and it could not have been in its present enviable position.

It is gratifying to note that the shareholders of the society are extending their full co-operation to the office-bearers and staff of the society in day-to-day transactions, and are giving valuable suggestions to improve the society. In this connection I appeal to the past and present students of the College to become share-holders of the society in large numbers, thus helping the society in achieving its ultimate objects.

T. K. CHANDRASEKHARAI AH,

Hon. Secretary.

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OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

THE REPORT OF THE COLLEGE FOR 1907-08 mentions the appointment of a Committee for celebrating the College Day. The first College Day seems to have been celebrated in 1908 and College Day Committees were appointed from time to time on each occasion.

In their report of the ninth College Day celebrations, in February 1923, the Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. F. R. Sell, M. T. Naraniengar and P. Sampat Iyengar, urged the formation of an Old Boys' Association. This was formally constituted at the business meeting of the Old Boys, on 15th February 1925. The main activity of this Association was merely the holding of the "Central College Day."

In the year 1951 however the constitution and management of the Association were organised on a wider basis and a set of Rules and Regulations was passed. The objects of the Association are stated to be :—

(a) To sustain among the Old Boys of the Central College feelings of affection and gratitude to the Alma Mater by arranging periodical gatherings at which

old acquaintances may be renewed and past memories cherished.

(b) To concert measures for creating opportunities for contact between the past and the present students to their mutual advantage.

and

(c) Generally to do such other acts as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the old Boys of the Central College and their dependents and of the present students of the Central College.

Membership of the Association was opened to those who pay the following subscriptions :—

(a) Re. 1.00 per annum for those whose income does not exceed Rs. 200.00 per month and Rs. 2.00 per annum for others.

(b) Any member by paying a subscription of Rs. 50.00 in a lump sum or in not more than ten equal instalments may become a "Life Member."

(c) Any member may become a Patron by paying a donation of not less than Rs. 500.00.

(d) Voluntary contributions will be invited from the members of the Association to promote the aims and objects of the Association.

The Management is vested in a Committee consisting of the President, 12 members and the Principal of the Central College who shall be an Ex-officio member. The President and 12 members shall be elected at an Ordinary General Body Meeting of the Association. The Committee shall elect from among its members two Secretaries and a Treasurer.

The late Sri Oorghalli N. Krishna Iyengar was the first to enrol himself as a Patron by paying a donation of Rs. 500.

The following have enrolled themselves as Life Members of the Association :

1. *Rajadharmaprasakta* sri T. singaravelu mudaliar.
2. sri S. K. Ramanuja Iyengar.
3. „ V. Gopalaswamy Iyengar.
4. Dr. M. S. Mehkri.
5. sri B. vasudeva Murthy.
6. Dr. M. shivaram.
7. sri G. Narasimhaiah.
8. *Sastravaidyapravina* Dr. T. sesha-chalam.
9. sri S. V. Krishna Murthy Rao.
10. „ P. S. char.
11. „ N. K. N. Iyengar.
12. „ *Rajadharmaprasakta* sri A. R. Nageswara Iyer.
13. sri N. S. Raghavan.
14. „ T. Narasimha Iyengar.
15. „ R. Ranganathan.

16. sri M. Narasimhaswamy.
17. „ A. M. Basave Gowda.
18. „ C. R. veeraraghavan.
19. „ N. subramanyam.
20. „ D. C. subbarayappa.
21. „ L. Ramachandra Khoday.
22. „ M. L. Srinivasa sastry.
23. „ A. N. Anantharamaiah.
24. „ P. N. Raja Iyengar.

The Membership of the Association varies from about 1,500 to 2,500. The assets of the Association on 31st March 1958 were as follows: (i) Building Rs. 5,000; (ii) Furniture Rs. 250; (iii) Investment by way of Fixed Deposit Rs. 3,000; (iv) Current account with the Bank of Mysore, Ltd., Bangalore, Rs. 774.81; (v) S. B. account with the State Huzur Treasury, Rs. 138; (vi) Cash and other balances, Rs. 153.

The following is the succession list of Presidents of the Association :— *Mushir-ul-Mulk* Mir Humza Hussain (1925-29); *Rao Bahadur Rajakaryaprasakta* M. shama Rao and Mr. M. T. Naraniengar (1929-32). *Rao Bahadur* Dr. C. B. Rama Rao (1932-38), sri B. R. Krishnamachar (1938-42). *Rukn-ul-Mulk* sri S. Abdul wajid (1942-49), *Rajadharmaprasakta* sri T. singaravelu mudaliar from 1949 and continues up-to-date.

Messrs. P. sampath Iyengar, M. venkatesa Iyengar, M. G. Srinivasa Rao, T. singaravelu mudaliar, M. sesha Iyengar, A. venkata Rao Telang, Nittoor Srinivasa Rao, V. T. Srinivasan, S. D. Ganesha Rao, L. Krishnaswamy Rao, C. S. Pichamuthu, H. subba Jois, M. G. vijayasarithi, P. R. Jagapathy Naidu, Dr. M. S. Mehkri,

COLLEGE DAY--PRESIDENTS



SIR P. N. KRISHNA MURTHY



Amin-ul-Mulk
SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL

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COLLEGE DAY—PRESIDENTS



SIR P. N. KRISHNA MURTHY



Amin-ul-Mulk
SIR MIRZA M. ISMAIL

PRESIDENTS—CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Mashir-ul-Mulk
MIR HAMZA HUSSAIN, B.A., B.L.



Rao Bahadur DR. C. B. RAMA RAO



SRI B. R. KRISHNAMACHAR



Rukn-ul-Mulk
SRI S. ABDUL WAJID



GE. DAY—1900

PRESIDENTS—CENTRAL KANNIYOD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Mushir-ul-Mulk
MIR HAMZA HUSSAIN, B.A., B.L.



Rao Bahadur DR. C. B. RAMIA RAO



SRI B. R. KRISHNAMACHAR



Rukn-ul-Mulk
SRI S. ABDUL WAJID



FIRST COLLEGE DAY—1908

PRESIDENT—CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Rajadharmaprasakta
SRI T. SINGARAVELU MUDALIAR

T. N. Ramachandra Rao, S. Krishna Swamy, S. Siddappa, Dr. T. Chandrasekharaiya, T. Armesan, K. Ahmedulla, M. N. Viswanathaiah, Dr. B. A. Razi, K. V. Krishnaswamy Rao, A. Mohamed Khan, B. A. Gulam Ahmed and K. V. Satyanarayana Rao have been the Hon. secretaries.

Sri V. Gopalaswamy Iyengar, Prof. L. Rama Rao, Dr. B. S. Madhava Rao, Dr. C. N. Srinivasa Iyengar, Dr. B. Sanjeeva Rao, Prof. S. B. Bondade and Dr. P. Krishna Rao have been treasurers.

The programme of the College Day Celebrations has generally included scientific demonstrations, sports and fancy dress, light refreshments, dinner, drama and music. An assembly is held at which the President selected for the year delivers the address and proposes the toast of the college, responded to by the Principal. Toasts of the Old Boys and the present boys are next proposed and responded to by an old boy and a present student.

Prior to the founding of the Association, the following are known to have presided over the assembly :—

- 1908 Sir P. N. Krishna Murthy.
- 1912 Sir M. Visweswaraiah.
Sri K. P. Puttanna Chetty.
- 1915 Sri D. Venkataramayya.
- 1915 Dr. P. S. Achuta Rao.
- 1920 *Rajamantrapravina Diwan Bahadur* P. Ragavendra Rao.
- 1922 *Rajakaryaprasakta Rao Bahadur* M. Shama Rao.
- 1923 *Mushir-ul-Mulk* Mir Humza Hussain.

Since the founding of the Association, the Presidents have been :—

- 1925 *Praktana Vimarsha Vichakshana Rao Bahadur* R. Narasimhachar.
- 1926 Sri B. Subbanna.
- 1927 *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza Mohamed Ismail.
- 1928 Sri M. T. Narayaniengar.
- 1930 *Rao Bahadur* Dr. C. B. Rama Rao.
- 1931 Swami Srivasananda.
- 1933 Sri Navaratna Rama Rao.
- 1935 Diamond Jubilee celebrations :
Inauguration : H. H. The Yuvaraja of Mysore.
President : Sir Mirza M. Ismail.
- 1937 Sri C. Rajagopalachari.
- 1939 *Rajasevasakta Dewan Bahadur* Dr. S. Krishnaswamy Iyengar.
- 1941 Sri J. Mohamed Imam.
- 1946 *Amathyasiromani* Sir T. Thamboo Chetty.
- 1949 Sri V. Narahari Rao.
- 1952 Re-Union Day :
Inauguration : Sri T. Channaiah.
President : Sri Navarathna Rama Rao.
- 1953 Re-Union Day :
Rajadharmaprasakta Sri T. Singaravelu Mudaliar.
- 1955 College Day :
Sri S. V. Krishna Murthy Rao.
- 1957 Sri S. Nijalingappa.

The Association was registered under the Mysore Societies Act No. III of 1904 and Act V of 1939 on 14th April 1941.

PRESIDENT—CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Rajadharmaprasakta

SRI T. SINGARAVELU MUDALIAR

T. N. Ramachandra Rao, S. Krishna Swamy, S. Siddappa, Dr. T. Chandrasekharaiya, T. Ramesan, K. Ahmedulla, M. N. Viswanathaiah, Dr. B. A. Razi, K. V. Krishnaswamy Rao, A. Mohamed Khan, B. A. Gulam Ahmed and K. V. Satyanarayana Rao have been the Hon. Secretaries.

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Association Building

Owing to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. B. R. Krishnamachar, the then President of the Association, the then Principal of the Central College, Mr. A. D. Mackintosh, and *Rao Bahadur* Dr. C. B. Rama Rao, the idea of constructing a building for the Association was mooted by a resolution passed on 12th April 1935. A sum of Rs. 5,000 collected by the Association was handed over to Government.

The University and the Government generously granted the site next to the Sports pavilion and sanctioned the construction of the building at a cost of Rs. 6,700 ; the excess of Rs. 1,700 over and above the contribution of Rs. 5,000 made by the Association was met by the University, and the Public Works Depart-

ment waived the construction and supervisory charges.

The building was completed and was opened on 2nd March 1941 by *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, the then Dewan of Mysore and a distinguished old boy of the College. His generosity, and sympathy and the valuable help given by him were acknowledged in the address presented to him on the occasion of the opening of the Building.

The building is used for Association purposes ; A club is being run for the old Boys. A furnished room is available to the members of the Association for lodging purpose on payment of a nominal rent.

The Association contributes liberal amounts to the Poor Boys' Fund of the College.

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REMINISCENCES

OUR COLLEGE

Some Recollections

OUR DEAREST REMINISCENCES OF THE Central College relate to the time we both were there, and may best be presented in a joint note. The College brought us together and started a friendship which has grown with our growth, and has become one of the things we value most in our age. It was there that we lived some of our happiest years. Whenever we meet, we love to recapture that past by exchanging memories of the lives we lived, of the professors at whose feet we learnt, our college-mates, the books we read, and the thoughts and hopes and fancies that sprung in our young minds at a time when the future lay before us in sunny prospect.

We loved our College with a child's love for its mother. We had our heroes among the professorial staff and also a list of carefully prepared preferences. It was a list of all "passes" and no "fails" but the ranking was uncompromising. One of us was a fanatic for sport and athletics and had heroes in that field, and the other also, through sheer love of his friend

tried, and to some extent succeeded, in also taking an interest in them.

We knew intimately and loved everything in the College from the lawn and the Cricket field—Oh, what a cricket field it was, with a border of ancient trees which gave shelter to boys young and old while they watched the varying fortunes of the battle their soldiers were fighting on the field—everything from the lawn and the cricket field to the venerable trees which bounded them, and from the struggling out-houses by the muddy pond, to the austere red College building with the gaunt clock tower keeping watch over it. Early in our college life a block of Tiffin Rooms was built consisting of a few pill-box cubicles; and great was our joy when we were considered worthy of being given the exclusive privilege of occupying one of them. Our recollection of it is that it was about eight feet square. It was luxuriously furnished for us with two benches which served as sofas by day and bed by night. We loved it dearly, and lived in it all we could, even grudging the time that had to be

given to going to a hotel in Chikkapet for such meals as it vouchsafed to us. The rather limited space and furniture of our sanctum gave it a scarcity value ; and it was only our inner circle of friends, such as Arunachalam, Babu Rao, and Ranganatha Rao Sahib that had the privilege of an entry. Arunachalam and Babu Rao are no longer with us and Ranganatha Rao Sahib is living his life, of happy old age in London. The room was our sanctum indeed, but the whole grounds were our temple. Often and often we used to spend part of the night lying on the lawn under the star-spangled or moonlit sky according to the phase of the month, in grave or merry talk, till the clock warned us in solemn tones of the midnight hour. It seemed to us that there was in its voice some of the grave sadness of the "*Bhajagovindam*" hymn. One night we slept in the open—to be accessible to whatever other spirits might be abroad—and though there was no response to our invitation, the cold night breeze made mock of our thin blankets, and while we vowed we rather liked it, we resolutely denied ourselves repetition of the pleasure.

Our residence in the Tiffin Rooms brought us in frequent contact with the menial staff of the College, and gave us opportunities of knowing the real worth there is in humble lives. We remember the kindly services often spontaneously rendered us by old Hanumanthiah, the *mali* who on a meagre income brought up a large family of orphaned children, and grand-children, and was never unwilling to do us a service when required.

Of our professors, we loved all, but it was Mr. Tait who reigned supreme in

our hearts. He was like a father to us, and we had for him that filial mixture of love and fear which most nearly approaches devotion. It was not only that he was a supremely good teacher—of course he was that, and taught us and others to know and love literature—but that he was also our *beau-ideal* of what was good and brave and noble in man. He was generous almost to a fault, but so careful in concealing his benefactions that we can never know how many people owe their success and happiness in life to him. He was fond of sport and attached great importance to it ; but sport to him was not mere gladiatorial expertness. It had a spiritual quality—fairness, chivalry, "kindness in another's trouble, courage in your own." To one of us he sent from his home in Edinburgh a New Year present which bore this motto :

*When the great Scorer comes
To mark against your name
He cares not whether you won or lost
But how you played the game.*

That was Mr. Tait ; We heard of his death with a numb pain in our hearts, our tribute of flesh to flesh, but in our love he lives for ever.

Mr. Cook (Dr. Cook as he afterwards became) held an equally high place in our affection. If Mr. Tait was like a father to us, Mr. Cook was a loving and irascible uncle—whose affection was to be relied on and whose anger need not be taken seriously. One of us (guess which one) was continually getting into and out of favour with him by alternations of truancy and repentance. He was a grand teacher of Physics who so identified himself with his work that he seemed almost to claim a proprietary interest in the

subjects he taught. His assistants were his old students, two of them Messrs. Venkatesha Iyengar and Vijayaraghava-char, were brilliant scientists, but to him they were still students, and they seemed to rejoice in being treated as such. Good and efficient they all were—but Ramaiah, the laboratory attender was undoubtedly the Ariel of our Prospero. Ramaiah's name was always in the air, sometimes fragrant when an experiment came well off, often sulphurous when it did not. Ramaiah loved his master and his work and always looked demure when, as often happened, his master rated his highly qualified assistants with some such phrase as—“Oh, you have messed it ! Ramaiah could have done it better than you !” Mr. Cook lived for the College and felt so completely one with it. But without any consciousness of arrogance he could have said “The College ? I am the College !”.

As lovers of books we paid assiduous court to Mr. Ramadasappa, the Librarian,

a self-important but kind-hearted man. By rendering to him the deference he thought his due, we had no difficulty in getting access to whatever books we wanted, and were able to do a very fair amount of general reading.

We owed both instruction and amusement to our second language professors. “Munshis” they were slightly dubbed in those days. The hours assigned to them were really hours of fun and relaxation. We have grateful recollections of them and the other professors through whose hands we passed, and admiring remembrance of the gallant student-sportsmen who made the College famed and feared in Cricket and Tennis. The most distinguished among them in our day were Jayaram, the Achilles of the Cricket field who won matches with his single prowess and his trusty comrade D. Srinivasa Rao.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI
N. RAMA RAO

◆ ◆ ◆

MY COLLEGE DAYS

IT WAS MY PECULIAR GOOD FORTUNE THAT I had connection with our dear College in *two* capacities : firstly as a student, secondly as a teacher. I taught *Physiology* to F. A. classes for some time and Chemistry to B.A. classes for nearly 21 years until January 1916, when I was promoted to administrative line as Circle Inspector, the State then being divided into two circles for Educational purposes.

This long period of Service in the College brought me the good fortune of coming into contact with the best intellects of my students, who rose to eminence as Heads of many State Departments—High Court Judges, Members of the Bar, Officers of Engineering, Medicine, Forest, Electrical Departments, etc. I may here be permitted to state that Sir Mirza Ismail, the former

Dewan of this State, had lessons from me in Physiology, when I was made to teach that subject to the then F.A. classes.

As students of the College we showed highest regard to our teachers with as much reverence as we show to our spiritual teacher, our Guru. Ardent true love prevailed between teachers and the taught. Strictest obedience to constituted authority we only knew, but never knew anything about rebellious element or dissentient spirit marring student discipline.

To show our respect to our teachers we never entered the class room without a head-dress and we left our shoes at the door. So the dress I wore while attending class consisted of a turban, a long coat, a panchey and a salya—a dress highly peculiar, like that of one taking part in a Fancy Dress show.

As we showed highest love to our teachers, they were quite familiar with us and they not only taught us well but also persuaded us to consult special books for each branch of Science like Heat, Light, Electricity and Magnetism, Conservation of Energy, etc.

Blessed with good memory, it was easy for me to secure a First Class in the University Examination occupying a rank second to the Presidency. I got thereby the Mysore Government Prize of Rs. 100 which was awarded to me on the occasion of Prize Distribution which was being held annually as a gala day by our Principal, Mr. J. Cook, but dropped by his successor for what reason we do not know.

My bright success in the University Examination came to the notice of the

then benevolent Statesman, Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, the Dewan, who, sanctioning a scholarship of Rs. 40 a month, persuaded me to proceed to Poona Engineering College to better my prospects. This wholesome advice I had to neglect as I had poor aged parents to maintain.

Fortunately at this juncture I had a telegram from our generous Principal, Mr. J. Cook, offering Science Assistant's place in the College. Though the pay sanctioned by the Government was somewhat low at Rs. 100 per mensem, I most cheerfully accepted the offer, as it consisted of work of a higher nature,—of teaching B.A. classes in Chemistry and working in Chemical Laboratory. In course of time the generous Principal who was satisfied with my ardent work bettered my position. He also secured for me an Assistant Examinership for nearly ten years.

At this stage the Madras University passed their new Regulations introducing a course of Practical work in Chemistry at the Intermediate stage and I had to work with redoubled energy to meet the requirements of their syllabus.

The method of instruction adopted by me was not in lecture form as adopted by many professors, but was of a peculiar nature which it is needless to refer to at present. However my method of instruction minimised to a great extent the percentage of failures in the Intermediate stage, with no failure at all in the B.A. stage.

Thus the highly active life I led in my dear College not only enabled me to work in a similar manner to the satisfaction of

my superior, but also helped me to write 32 books on Upanishad Lore and Visista Adwaitha Philosophy for the benefit of the public of this State under the name of Visista Adwaitha Siddhantha Ratna Mala and thereby enrich Kannada Lite-

rature with original and copious annotations of high class classic works with originals in Sanskrit or Tamil.

C. M. VIJAYARAGHAVACHAR

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THE COLLEGE 45 YEARS AGO

TALKING, OR WRITING, ABOUT ONE'S 'reminiscences', they say, is the most pleasurable pastime of 'old age'. In the present case, however, my getting into a reminiscent mood now, before I am fully 'qualified' for it by virtue of 'age' is due to my good friend Principal S. B. Bonadade. In asking me to write a short article for this Souvenir, he made a definite suggestion that I should write about my "College Reminiscences"; he was kind enough to even say that the Souvenir "would be incomplete without your College Reminiscences, which we feel sure, will prove extremely interesting and valuable to every one." It is in response to this invitation, couched in such flattering terms, that I have now got into a reminiscent mood to jot down a few facets of my first impressions of the College as I saw it when I joined it as a student 45 years ago.

It has been my rare privilege and good fortune to have been associated with the Central College continuously for a period of 40 years,—the first 4 years as its student, and the last 4 as its Principal : and in between, as a member of its teaching staff occupying successively higher

levels in the official hierarchy. I have thus spent the best part of my life in the Central College ; I have indeed grown old with it during those 40 years and often felt that I was 'part of it'.

Let me, however, hasten to add that I am not going to write about all the 'reminiscences' of my college life during this long period ; that would take a 'volume'. I will just record here a few of my impressions of the college as it was in those days when I first entered it as a student.

I have very vivid recollections even now of the day in June 1913 when I entered the portals of the Central College as an applicant for a seat in the Junior Intermediate class. We belonged to the first batch that passed out of the High Schools that year according to the new Mysore S.S.L.C. scheme which had just then been introduced in place of the old Matriculation examination of the Madras University. In declaring the results of the S.S.L.C. examination then, there was no differentiation into 'E.C.P.S.' and 'E.P.S.' ; those that had secured a certain percentage of marks in the different subjects were

just announced as having 'passed' the S.S.L.C. and each of us who had passed was given a regular 'Register' in which was entered a full account of our progress in the High School, together with the marks we had obtained not only in the final S.S.L.C. Public Examination, but also those in the several class examinations held during the 3 years of our High School course. It was left entirely to the discretion of the Principals of Colleges to decide, on the basis of our performance in the High School and S.S.L.C. examinations whether they could admit us to the Intermediate Course or not.

The Central College, with its Intermediate and Degree Courses, was still affiliated to the Madras University in those days, and Mr. J. G. Tait was then the Principal of the College. In the Science sections of the Junior Intermediate class which we had to join, there were only 104 seats—80 in group I (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) and 24 in group II (Physics, Chemistry, Natural Science); there was a similar number in the Senior Intermediate; each of the Two B.A. classes (Junior and Senior) had about 60 students; thus the total strength of the Central College including both the Intermediate and Degree classes in Science,—and it was the only college having Science Course for the whole Mysore State then,—was just about 350! and the College had at that time all the buildings which it has now, except the Mathematics and the new Natural Science Blocks.

The selection of students for admission to the Junior Intermediate Class was then a simple affair. The Principal would fix a date and ask all the applicants to assemble in the College Hall,—the one

where we have now got the Library—(in fact, it was the Library Hall even in those days). Most of us were little youngsters then, and the very idea that we were soon going to interview no less a person than the 'Principal of the Central College' who would decide our fate regarding admission to the Intermediate course, or otherwise, was enough to create an atmosphere of tense suspense, anxiety, and nervousness! As our names were called out one by one, each of us was ushered into the Principal's room where Mr. Tait was sitting on one of those cushioned chairs with the Head Clerk,—Mr. P. Narasinga Rao,—standing at a safe and respectable distance. We immediately presented our 'credentials' *i.e.*, our 'Register' to the Head Clerk, and as soon as our identity was properly recognised, he would hand it over to the Principal. Mr. Tait would then take a couple of minutes to glance through our record of progress in the High School, and ask a question or two, if necessary. If he was satisfied that we were 'fit' for admission, he would turn to us and say,—“Yes, come and join tomorrow”, and hand back our Register to the Head Clerk for being filed; and he, in his turn would place in our hands a copy of the regular Admission Form for being filled in and brought the next day. If, however, Mr. Tait was not satisfied with a candidate's record, he would simply return the Register to the boy with the remark,—“No, there is no seat for you here.” Thus in the course of about 3 hours, the 104 seats would be filled up, and the list of selected students would be actually announced on the Notice Board by the evening. All that we had to do was to go to the College the next day, pay up our fees, sign in the Admission Register, and get enrolled; we

then became "students of the Central College."

I remember a funny incident that happened at the time of admissions that year. One of the boys with whose record of performance Mr. Tait was not satisfied, was told as usual that he would not get a seat. The boy, however, was so anxious to get into the College that he met Mr. Tait more than once, even long after all the admissions were made, to represent his case for special reconsideration; on the last occasion when the boy met him again, Mr. Tait was obviously annoyed and in his characteristic pose, bent low to address the boy direct to his face, solemnly said: "Look here, how many times should I tell you that all the seats have been filled up, and there—is—no—seat—for—you." The boy had a bright idea and replied: "I am so anxious to join the College, Sir; and if there are no seats available, I am prepared to bring my own seat". Even Mr. Tait, who was known for his grim and austere countenance, it appears burst into laughter on hearing this reply: I know, however, that nevertheless this boy did not get a seat in our class.

The monthly fee collection in those days was also a simple affair. I think the prescribed fee for the Intermediate course then was Rs. 6 per month. A date and time for the fee collection in each class would be previously notified by the Principal; at the appointed time on that day, Mr. Tait, could be seen emerging from his room, and walk all the way to the concerned class room in a slow, measured, and majestic manner, so characteristic of him, with a big Register in one hand, and an ink bottle and pen in the other,—

followed by Clerk Narasinga Rao at a distance with an empty tray in hand. On entering the class room, Mr. Tait would take his seat in the teacher's chair, and Narasinga Rao would stand to a side. As each student's name was called by the Principal from the Register, the boy stood up in his place and said: "Yes Sir". Narasinga Rao would then walk up to him, collect the money, count it, come back to the Principal, and say: "Yes Sir, Rupees Six", and put the amount in the tray he had specially brought for the purpose. Mr. Tait would then make an entry in the Register, and pass on to the next name; and the whole process was repeated over again. Sometimes it happened that a boy had not got the full amount; he would have probably brought only 4 rupees. Mr. Narasinga Rao would collect this amount, and when he went back to the Principal, would announce "Yes Sir, Four Rupees". Mr. Tait would make an appropriate entry, and it was understood on both sides that the balance of Rs. 2 would be paid along with the "next month's fees". If the boy had not brought any money at all, he stood up when his name was called and said: "No Sir, will pay next month". Not a word was said by the Principal; he simply passed on to the next name. The final check-up came only at the end of the year on the eve of the Annual Examination, by which time practically everybody would have paid up his year's fees in full. On the last and final fee collection day, there would however be some who, out of sheer poverty and helplessness, could not manage to get together the necessary amount, and would accordingly plead, with an anxious and pathetic look in their faces, their inability to clear their dues. If Mr. Tait was impressed at the moment

that it was a genuine case of hardship and poverty, he would say : "All right, don't worry" and pass on. It meant that he would himself pay out of his pocket all such amounts and clear the accounts ; similarly also at the time of collecting the University Examination fees. Mr. Tait's charity in this respect was well known, and it was mentioned in those days that he was giving away every year about 500 to 600 rupees in this kind of 'help' to poor deserving students.

The College Office at that time consisted only of 3 clerks—the Head Clerk Mr. Narasinga Rao and his two assistants and the office room was just in front of the Principal's ; in fact, you had to pass through the office to get into the Principal's room. It is interesting to recall that in those days there was also a small Printing Press which formed part of the College office and this was also housed in the room occupied by the clerks ; it was an old-fashioned little hand-press, with a few cases of types, and was used by the college to print its requirements like Application forms, Library Voucher slips, Receipt books, etc. There was at that time a literate attender in the office by name Ramiah who was also a sort of *ex-officio* Compositor and Printer, and functioned as such whenever necessary. His heaviest and most responsible duties were just before the Class Examinations when the question papers had to be printed. The whole place would then become a sort of "Confidential Room" ; about a fortnight before the examinations started, a prominent Notice,—“Papers printing. No admission to Students”.—would be hung up outside the office room, and none of us could ever think of getting in then. Ramiah would assume an air of special

'importance and aloofness' during that period, and would not even look at us outside lest he should be suspected of 'leakage' of questions ! When once the examinations were over, things returned to normal, and Ramiah was his own good self over again.

Mr. Tait was by nature rather unmindful about the way he kept his Principal's room ; it was often seen littered with books, files, and papers of all kinds lying all over the place. Himself seated at the table in a semi-circular cushioned chair, there would be 3 or 4 other chairs round the table ; on one you would probably see his hat and over-coat, a pile of note books would be there on the second, and half a dozen text-books which he was handling for the different classes, on the third. As days went on, the place used to become quite congested and dusty, and yet he never worried about getting it cleaned up. It was a frequent sight in those days to see Mrs. Tait, who evidently knew her husband's habits, to step into the Principal's room on Saturday afternoons, when Mr. Tait was not there and with the help of a servant or two, spend a couple of hours to sort out everything and get the entire place tidied up under her personal supervision, so as to make the whole room look neat and clean ; but of course this wouldn't last very long !

The Head Clerk, Mr. Narasinga Rao, was an elderly person, rather fat, short, and stout, and his movements were therefore naturally a little 'heavy' ; but he was an exceedingly good man of the old orthodox and God-fearing type, with a genial temperament, and known to be very regular and systematic in his work. When once he came into the presence of

Mr. Tait, however, he became visibly excited and nervous ; and all that he did was to say " Yes, Sir " as frequently as possible as he stood there listening to Mr. Tait's instructions ; in fact, he often confessed to us that he was really ' afraid ' of Mr. Tait. No wonder ; many of the even senior members of the teaching staff in those days, it appears, felt much the same way ; they were all equally overpowered by the dominating, stern, and awe-inspiring personality of Mr. Tait !

Whenever Mr. Narasinga Rao had to attend to a number of important matters under the immediate direction of the Principal, he would get so excited, and out of sheer fright and nervousness, would make some mistake or other, and get into trouble. Once, during the University examination season, it appears there was an urgent and confidential communication which had to go to the Madras University by the day's post, and Mr. Tait gave him the necessary instructions in the matter at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Narasinga Rao immediately got together all the papers, and typed the covering letter ; in his hurry and excitement to see that the letter was posted in time he put the whole thing in an envelope, addressed it to the Registrar of the Madras University, and posted it off ! He hadn't got the documents signed by the Principal ! He realised his mistake only late in the evening when Mr. Tait himself reminded him about the letter. Poor Narasinga Rao started trembling all over and felt as if he was hit by a thunderbolt ; after a minute or two he recovered well enough to confess his mistake and render the most abject apology. No wonder Mr. Tait was very much annoyed, and he made no secret of it !

But the sequel is more interesting ; the above incident happened just a few days before Mr. Narasinga Rao's daughter's marriage which he had fixed up at Tirupathi. It was the University examination season, and Mr. Narasinga Rao was wondering all along how to summon the necessary courage to go and ask the Principal for 5 days leave during that busy time ; just then, this incident happened and it blasted all his hopes of a favourable interview with the Principal in connection with his leave. But what could he do ? the marriage was fixed up, and it was his own daughter's marriage ; he *had* to take leave and go. So the next day, with great diffidence and trepidation, he managed to step into Mr. Tait's room, explained the position, and requested for 5 days leave under " the unavoidable circumstances." Mr. Tait who was quietly looking at some papers while Narasinga Rao was mentioning all this, slowly lifted his head, looked at Mr. Narasinga Rao's face for a while, and then said : " Yes, you may go ". This came as such a welcome relief to Mr. Narasinga Rao, and he was so happy and grateful about it.

The next day, at 11 o'clock, Mr. Tait was, as usual, passing through the office to get into his room ; on his way, he stopped for a minute near the table where Mr. Narasinga Rao—was standing and said : " It is your daughter's marriage next week, isn't it ? Take this, it may be of some use to you ", and so saying he dropped three fresh and crisp 100-rupee notes on the table, and walked away quietly into his room. Narasinga Rao simply burst into tears of joy and gratitude at this magnificent act of generosity on the part of his master ! That was the

real Mr. Tait; his stern and forbidding exterior covered a noble soul and a most generous heart.

These are just a few of my first impressions of the Central College as I saw it when I entered it as a student 45 years ago; there are many more things about

the College of those days about which I could write,—its teachers, its hostel, its laboratories, and its sports activities. But I am afraid this article has already become too long, and I must stop.

L. RAMA RAO

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MY ALMA MATER

ONE EVENING IN AUGUST FORTY-THREE years ago, a more than normally timid boy of sixteen and his companion were going on the Dharmambudhi tank-bund opposite the city railway station in Bangalore—what is now a huge, grassy hollow was then a live and resplendent reservoir of water—when suddenly they caught sight of a tall, thickset, imposing figure clad in darkish serge coming towards them, with long and measured strides. They were chilled to the marrow by the vision, but there was neither time nor bye-lane to slink away. As the apparition approached them, they hastily threw out a clumsy gesture with their dexter hand. The object of their consternation halted, fixed them with a steady gaze, and said: “You look like students of my College”. “Yes, Sir, we have just entered the Junior Intermediate”, was the hurried and gasping reply. “That is not the way to accost a man”, boomed the voice as though from the sky. Pale but fascinated, the boys lifted their eyes up and stared with the resolution of despair. Their grand interrogator went through a solemn military salute, and admonished: “That is the proper manner of greeting. If you are busy, move on without a sign of recogni-

tion; but if you wish to recognise a person, do it methodically. And, take care, I want every one of my students to walk chest front, head erect!” The boy was my humble self, and the sage adviser, Mr. John Guthrie Tait, unique Principal of the Central College, Bangalore, and unique Professor of English.

When in July 1915 I became an alumnus of the hallowed College, a privilege I had long longed for, I got overwhelmed by its curiously beautiful structural triplicity. Since my brain was full of Scott’s novels, Tennyson’s “Idylls of the King” and Chawcer’s Tale of Palamon and Arcite, the central building with its portico and its spire pointing to the heavens seemed to me a Gothic Cathedral, and the Physics and Chemistry ‘theatres’ with their elevated basement, deep verandahs, broad oblong towers rising to the clouds, were old-world castles. More than the height and the spaciousness, the symphony of the architecture exercised an enchantment over me for good. As I stepped into that demi romantic world, I found that I had also become heir to an invaluable hoard of legends, most of them centred in Professor Tait. I was thrilled when I heard

that he had sent an epistle to the Private Secretary of a Governor containing what he called "specimens of gubernatorial grammar", culled from one of the hapless Governor's gazette notifications, and that, when he received in answer a brief missive stating "Professor J. G. Tait is warned", our hero had promptly read it to his classes, causing roars of mocking laughter. His genuinely Scottish humour was down, distinctive and terrible. A sturdy youth, seeking admission to College, held forth on his own athletic accomplishments. Mr. Tait made him go through a few paces and dismissed him with the peremptory order "About Turn, Quick March". He was a Colonel of the Territorial Army; and in his officer's uniform astride a black and brown charger he looked striking and sublime. After passing the Intermediate, I met him, like my contemporaries, to listen to his counsel. He asked me to go to Madras and join the College of Engineering. I said I could not afford to do it. He next asked me to do the B.Sc. in Physics at the Central College. I pleaded my love of English literature and ventured to speak of the B.A. as the portal of the M.A. degree. Rubbing his chin as was his wont, and tilting his leonine head, he gravely uttered the prophecy, "Then, I have no hope for you!" The University of Mysore had come into existence despite his strong opposition; and his contempt for the Maharaja's College, Mysore, was unbounded and undisguised. "If you want gas, run down eighty-six miles": was one of his favourite pieces of sarcasm. His definitions of those whom he disliked were short, sharp and biting like an epigram, ruthless and crushing like a sledgehammer. One he painted as "a being dark in mind and body; another he pounded as "lunatic placed at the helm of affairs

by a freak of fate". At a formal meeting, when the Secretary answered a member's interpellation instead of the Chairman, and repeated the performance, Mr. Tait stood up and slowly remarked: "I am not drunk. How does it happen, then, that I see in front of me two Chairmen!"

By temperament and habit he was a man of few words; but he could compress the meaning and significance of a couple of paragraphs into a single sentence. "Think for one hour, write for one hour" was his stern maxim when he set us topics. He corrected at home and commented in class upon each topic of each of his disciples himself. Once he made me count eight words I had employed verbosely in a certain context and asked for one word as their equivalent. By a flash of good luck, I got the word and said it. "But, why didn't you use it?" he thundered. And in this way he heckled me for ten or fifteen minutes before he handed me back my answer sheet, saying "It is not bad, not at all bad!" Two things he honoured: correct and scholarly interpretation of the text, cogent and independent reasoning. Almost all his headman's care and pedagogic energy he lavished on the freshmen and sophomores. When the seniors complained of neglect, he satisfied them by saying, "I want to lay the foundation sure!" and by giving them two or three thorough and illuminating lectures.

Professor Tait lived for the Central College, which to him was next only to the breath of his nostril, and for his students, of whom he was unwaveringly and enormously proud. A little time before 1915 he had been offered, it appears, the post of Inspector General of Education,

higher in precedence than the Principalship, and he had declined it on the ground that he could not leave the College. When he was told that the situation might be embarrassing, for Government would be constrained to give the post to Mr. John Weir, junior in service to Mr. Tait, Professor Tait magnanimously affirmed: "It does not matter. Mr. Weir is my friend."

If he unstintingly raised straight and salutary exhortation on all his words, even more unstintingly did he pour financial assistance upon the indigent. A story was current that, when he caught a clerk forging a cheque, he not only forgave him, saying "why sell your soul for rupees twenty-five?" but gave him the money and continued to have him about him. Collecting tuition and examination fees was a ceremonial at which it was customary for the Principal himself to officiate. To the needy and hesitant youth who stood before his table, Professor Tait used to say, "Put down what you have and go." In some instances, there would be nothing to put into the tray. He made good the entire deficit from his own purse. Once a friend of mine had his money order from home delayed; and when he went to the Principal to repay what he had considered as a loan, he was electrified by this sweet and surprising gift: "You seem to be an honest lad. Keep it for yourself." Youth may be misled into hero-worship, I know; but when an indubitable and rare hero like Professor Tait makes his advent, what else could youth do but worship?

If I were to go on in this way expatiating, say, on his love of sports and a slight partiality he had for sportmen, I would

have to indite a Taitiad; and so I must stop.

Although the giant personality of Mr. Tait tended to overshadow everyone else, most of the teachers of those years were instinct with individuality and have left in our minds their own impressions clear, bold and unforgettable. Professor E. P. Metcalfe, as serious as he was silent, could be seen on any working day, sometimes in his khaki shorts, in one of the laboratories or the workshop of the Physics Block which he had founded, built up and was immensely satisfied with. Being a bachelor,—he married in the latter part of 1918—he tendered his heart's devotion to the Department of Physics. If one pricked him, he would surely bleed physics. At demonstrating practical experiments, he was a near-magician; and few could expound general theories so perpicuously and convincingly and in such simple, precise and chaste English as he. Extremely patient and sympathetic was he; not a single harsh word ever escaped his lips. There was a story that soon after he came to Bangalore, he happened to criticise a student's answers a little too caustically, and that, a few days later, the student was found dead, apparently by suicide. That, it was said, wrung the soul of Mr. Metcalfe and made him the long-suffering and generous person that he was till the end. Mr. A. V. Telang taught us Physics for two years. Grimly intent on his subject, punctual and unfailing like a skilfully constructed clock, he never took, and he never gave us, any rest or relaxation. He always wore a thick tweed suit. He handed us over to Professor B. Venkateshachar who held repute as a prodigy. His talks were, indeed, ravishing; for not only did he fill them

with anecdotes of scientists, quotations from literature and references to Indian philosophy, but he knew how to modulate his voice, where to pause and create suspense, and when to ejaculate and produce a powerful climax. At times I wondered why he had not been designated Professor of Things-in-General ! With what obvious relish would he deliver and enjoy a palpable hit to half the class consisting of those undergraduates who aspired to B.A. Physics with only Intermediate mathematics ! He would write long-tailed equations on the black-board, and then theatrically turn round, expand his bespectacled eyes and express seeming contrition saying " Oh, I forgot my chemistry friends here ! " He would then proceed to give a beautiful exposition and descriptive proof of the problem on hand.

My association with the realm of odours and coloured liquids lasted just two years. Few students ever saw, and fewer still had personal contact with, the other mighty man of science, Professor F. L. Usher ; for he was generally up on the second floor and we knew that he was there by the aroma of his cigar. But that scent was feeble in comparison with the piercing and delicious fragrance wafted by the cigar of Professor F. R. Sell, who had his chambers in the Central building. Mr. Sell, by the way, was half comic actor, one-fourth director of essay-writing and one-fourth teacher of English literature. Nevertheless, he was a very good soul ; he was on terms of friendship and equality with everybody, and his admiration for Indian students was as great as it was sincere. He would often exclaim : " I envy you your style ! " " You Indian boys easily understand Shelly and Carlyle ; while poor old Sell cannot ! " Let us return

to Chemistry ; Mr. M. Sesha Iyengar was our guardian angel. Although the white and red marks on his forehead conflicted with his western form of apparel, he impressed us because of his deliberate, emphatic and loud way of speaking and of his hustling, heavy tread. Mr. Telang and he selected four of us and made us partner four lady students during the ' practical ' sessions. My partner was Srimathi Y. R. Rangamma. I felt that I could not be too grateful to that simple-minded, diligent and earnest young lady ; for on the one hand, she permitted me to do every bit of the experiments, while she herself watched ; and on the other, she gradually converted me into an unofficial pupil-teacher and helped me recapitulate the class lectures we had heard and the home studies I had prosecuted. Thereby hangs another tale. In the class-roll her serial number was 39, I think, and mine was 40. Professor E. G. McAlpine, who had recently joined the staff, while taking the roll-call pronounced " Y. R. Rangamma " and next, " S. V. Rangamma." And the big combined class—for, curiously enough, during 1915-16, and only for one year, there was a History, Logic and Economics section of the Intermediate in the Central College—raised a guffaw. The Comedietta was allowed to occur more than once before he was enlightened as regards the difference between the feminine and the masculine ending of a South Indian cognomen.

Mathematics, though it possessed no separate habitat, was a major science, and was under the custody of a first-class Professor, Mr. M. T. Naraniengar, every inch an orthodox ' Srivaishnava.' Slim and tall, clad in laced turban, long coat, upper cloth and red-bordered dhoti, he travelled

to and from College in a sedan coach drawn by a milk-white horse. He too was a prodigy, surrounded by an aureole of legends ; to look at him was to reverence him. He taught us geometry ; the neat, deft circles which he drew sitting in his chair and sometimes using the left fingers were an astounding marvel. His voice was soft and faint, as befitted a man of piety ; and he skipped many a step in the process of reasoning, saying " You know this," or " You may remember," making the average student somewhat bewildered. Mr. V. Gopalaswami Iyengar, on the contrary, was almost an ideal guide to the average student. He went through every proposition and every rider in algebra and algebraic geometry, explained things at length, wrote each detail on the black-board ; and if a formula was repeated, he said it and wrote it again. As the cultivation of the intellect was the sole ideal before the youngsters and intellectual matters their sole concern, nobody ever grumbled or fancied boredom. Mr. Gopalaswami Iyengar was held in very high regard ; for he knew almost all the students and almost everything about them. During a Speech Day Competitions once a competitor in the arithmetical race had failed to subscribe his name to his answer slip ; the judges were at their wits' end ; but lo, Mr. Gopalaswami examined it, and solved the puzzle, saying " Well, it is so-and-so's " !

In the midst of these Olympians and supermen, a little corner has to be found for a petty tyrant, namely, the Keeper of the General Library. Strong in self-will, puffed with self-righteousness, he tried to qualify as a sub-deity ruling his narrow demesne of a few hundred tomes with an iron hand. He was always gruff, always

on his legs, always shouting, " Keep silence ; no noise there." Now and then he would draw himself up to his full stature and scream : " I represent the Principal here ! " Books had been classified according to the decimal system and were preserved in almirahs under lock and key. Even a tiny error of number or name in the form of application was tantamount to high crime and misdemeanour in the eye of that monstrous stickler ; no appeal for consideration would touch him. I am afraid that some exuberant young spirits picked a quarrel with him on purpose to annoy him and witness his angry antics. If it is not irrelevant, I may mention that years later I discovered him cruelly cuffed and clawed in the thronged highways of existence. He wrote begging letters, which always began with " My dear, very kind, old friend " and closed with " Your life-long friend and well-wisher."

These reminiscences would lose all decorum if I were to omit recalling the sugary name of Shamiah, the benevolent old man who ran the " tiffin rooms " for the College. He was certainly not a restaurateur ; he was far too merciful to be mercenary. He was a kind of ' grandma ' to many of us. He thou'd and thee'd everyone, from the entrant three days old to the veteran of six or seven years' standing. When we grew unruly or tumultuous in our wild rush, he occasionally threw aside his ladle, sat back, and pelted at us a shower of abuse and curses. But only for a minute or two ; he would at once regain control of himself, seat us in some sort of orderly rows and fill our bellies with gorgeous eatables ! There was a ledger in the ante-room for us to record our bills as we passed out.



MATRICULATION CLASS, 1866



F. A. CLASS, 1866

to and from College in a rickshaw drawn by a milk-white horse. He too was a legend; to look at him was to reverence him. He taught us geometry, the neat, deft circles which he drew sitting in his chair and sometimes using the left fingers were an astounding marvel. His voice was soft and faint, as befitting a man of piety; and he always stopped in the middle of a sentence to say "Yah, Yah, Yah, Yah". The average student somewhat bewildered. Mr. V. Gopalaswami Iyengar, on the contrary, was almost an ideal guide to the average student. He went through every proposition and every rider in algebra and algebraic geometry, explained things at length, wrote each detail on the black-board; and if a formula was repeated, he said it and wrote it again. As the cultivation of the intellect was the sole ideal before the youngsters and intellectual matters their sole concern, nobody ever grumbled or fancied boredom. Mr. Gopalaswami Iyengar was held in very high regard; for he knew almost all the students and almost everything about them. During a Speech Day Competitions once a competitor in the arithmetical race had failed to subscribe his name to his answer slip; the judges were at their wits' end; but lo, Mr. Gopalaswami examined it, and solved the puzzle, saying "Well, it is so-and-so's"!

In the midst of these Olympians and supermen, a little corner has to be found for a petty tyrant, namely, the Keeper of the General Library. Strong in self-will, and with self-righteousness, he tried to quibble as a sub-deity ruling his narrow domain of a few hundred tomes with an iron hand. He was always gruff, always

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MATRICULATION CLASS, 1866



F. A. CLASS, 1866



STAFF, 1912



STAFF, 1935

When people wondered how he could bring himself to rely such trust on youthful honesty, he would laugh and exclaim : " They are all my children ; most probably, they need more than what is due."

Towards the end of my sojourn an event took place, which, to me at any rate, was rich in significance and richer in latent potentiality. A society known as " The Central College Karnataka Sangha " came into being, largely owing to the zeal, perseverance and foresight of Mr. A. R. Krishnasastri. It was he that had unsealed for a group of us a fountain of simple prelapsarian delight by reading with us a few of the ancient Kannada poets. How luscious and lovely the precious draught was, and how our thirst increased with what we drank ! Soon after its birth, the society started a quarterly called " Prabuddha Karnataka " and ran it successfully for a number of years before handing it over to the University.

The College smilingly yet irresistibly pushed us into an intense and joyous concentration on studies. For variation of routine and recreation we took long walks and now and then watched field games like cricket and football. Football especially seemed to have reached a peak both in dexterity and charm. Some teams were well-known : ' The Hindu Socials ', ' Crescents ', ' The Delta Union ', ' Mysore Champions ' and our own College team contested for supremacy. Most tournament matches were played on the Central College grounds. Once there arose an unusually ugly disturbance when the ' Hindu Socials ' met the ' Crescents ' in an exciting duel. As soon as the former, as expected, scored a goal, hell was let loose. Professor Tait strode into a seething knot of

ruffians, and rescued the referee, Mr. Balakrishna, who was a Demonstrator in Chemistry.

Tranquil Bangalore---for the city was not then an international mart that it is now---with its spectacularly undulating roads and small houses which were cottages rather than mansions, its ambrosial climate, its lyric skies and its air sparkling like diamonds, kept us continually spell-bound. The College, high and holy by herself, adorned with robe and crown by those royal labourers, the teachers, who laboured with faith for love, stood before us, day in and day out, like a goddess ' new lighted on a heaven-kissing hill '. She made the least of us feel that he had been fashioned not out of common clay but out of sacred substance ; what could all of us, without exception, do but adore her ?

After the expiry of twice seven years, in July 1933, the Central College attracted me again to her by a kind of gracious spiritual gravitation. To confess the truth, I was then eager to rejoin the staff of the Maharaja's College, Mysore, from which I had been away for full five summers ; but Dr. E. P. Metcalfe and Professor B. M. Srikantiah willed otherwise. Within a few weeks, however, after coming to the Central College I found myself quite at home. I now tremble to think what would have happened to me if I had not gone there and been there for a period of twelve years. A new yellow-coloured building, the Mathematics Block, had been constructed ; but it did not harmonize with the old red towering triplicity, which was for me the Central College. I had acquired two additional qualifications : Rover Scouting and University Extension Lectures ; and through them I was enabled to get into touch with



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some of the students and a few of the teachers belonging to the Intermediate College, the College of Engineering and the Medical School. All the departments of my own College conferred upon me their freedom, if it may be so phrased. Time and again I enjoyed a cup of light tea with the chemists or geologists, a cup of coffee with the physicists or botanists, and lunch with the zoologists or mathematicians. How jealously each department guarded its autonomy and independence, and how lovingly it nurtured its individuality; and yet how liberal it was in its spontaneous and ready hospitality! And all were staunchly loyal to the overriding principle of the College and altogether self-effacing in glorifying it. During the Diamond Jubilee I observed the spirit fully expressing itself in a concrete form. What a concourse of old boys, present alumni, and members of staff there were at work, every group cheerfully assuming its share of responsibility and toiling with guests in a mood of dedication! I have no doubt that that is the tradition of the Central College, unsurpassed perhaps unrivalled. Let me, in this context, refer to a small circumstance. For odds and ends in the course of the celebrations about a hundred and twenty young men were required. As the Rover Scouts were half that number non-scouts had to be enrolled as Volunteers *ad hoc*. At first the working committee decided upon mixing them together and placing them under my command. When I explained to them that the Scouts, as was their custom on such occasions, would go into a temporary camp on the premises, and that the volunteers could not and need not undergo that rigour and hardship, they immediately conceded the point and appointed Mr. L. Narayana Rao, Captain of the Volunteers. They

were assigned duties connected with the vast Exhibition and the Scouts all the rest of the service.

An all too brief period of four months and a half from June 24, 1937, stands out most vividly in my memory. Professor C. R. Narayana Rao was officiating Principal of the College. He began his scintillating regime with a well-nigh miraculous feat, namely, disbursing the salary of the non-gazetted staff on the first of July 1937. Those were days of national tribulation. When Mr. Nariman visited Bangalore, trouble broke out. The College students abstained from their lessons and moved restlessly about in small handfuls all over the precincts. Professor Narayana Rao went from party to party, advising them not to go out of the campus or get into the miscellaneous crowd outside. The reserve police were there armed with loaded muskets. When the officer-in-charge wanted to enter our grounds, Professor Narayana Rao politely but firmly asked him not to, saying that he himself was in control and that he knew how to maintain order and discipline in his College. Nothing out of the way happened in the Central College. But unfortunately a few hooligans attempted mischief in the Intermediate College and Police help was requisitioned. In the scuffle that followed a few *bona fide* students and a couple of teachers got slightly injured. Undergraduate temper was up. Boarders of the Central College Hostel, of which I was Warden, threatened a dire strike. Professor C. R. Narayana Rao, as Superintendent, intervened, allowed the indignant to talk and talk, quietly putting in a word now and then, and with exquisite astuteness managed to persuade them to show their sympathy for their ill-treated bre-

thren by giving them a high Tea ! That was not all. Being a true educationist, he went deeper into the affair in general, called an urgent and close meeting of the teachers, discussed the relationship of students and staff, and appointed a Committee, with me as Convenor, to suggest ways and means of keeping that relationship cemented. Soon after were introduced new and unprecedented ventures like the tutorial scheme, the system of providing a free midday refection to the indigent students, a more rational and equitable reconstitution of the time-table, and the endeavour to get parents and guardians more actively interested in the College. One circumstance as regards the feeding of students needs mention in particular. Some of the opulent students felt that they should eat with the 'chosen ones' the same food as they ate, but refused to have it gratis. So they paid a membership fee of rupee one each per mensem, thus adding their quota to the staff contribution of two per cent of their monthly salary. It was, on their part, a delicate gesture signifying a highly cultured courtesy and a robust spiritual refinement. How noble can our young men be ! Some of those reforms had come to stay. Principal C. R. Narayana Rao—he became "C.R.N." to the entire College

soon—made it a point to visit every member of the staff in his home soon after he took the reins, and did so again when he laid them down.

Then, I fear, the College fell into a rather dry routine, as though it had exhausted itself by that great round of truly academic adventures. Besides, bright day began rapidly to wane, deepening into evening and gloom. The world war stretched its menacing hand over every section of life. When the "Quit India" revolution commenced, all other interests naturally receded into the background.

In 1943 a fierce internal agitation seized me, forcing me to desire a transfer from the very dregs of my soul. Not that I loved the Maharaja's College more or the Central College less. But I felt that it was time for me to think of things intellectual: an old debt to repay, and a whole world to conquer. It took two years of stress and strife before I could succeed; for my mother, the Central College, would not easily let me go !

S. V. RANGANNA

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THE COLLEGE IN THE EARLY TWENTIES

PRINCIPAL TAIT HAD RETIRED AND PROF. Metcalfe had been Principal for a couple of years when I joined the College. The new University had produced the first batches of its graduates. The College which

had built a great reputation as a constituent College of the Madras University by the continued accession of distinguished men who taught in it no less than by a stream of distinguished scholars

sustained the same tradition and reputation even after the advent of the new University and at the time I am speaking of had on its staff eminent men of all-India reputation.

I shall not, however, make any detailed reference to our teachers, contenting myself with recording a tribute of affection and gratitude to them as, in this brief article, I wish to advert to some special features which characterised the life of the College, for it so happened that the early twenties saw the emergence and development of various factors which gave a new complexion altogether to the life of the College. Up to that time or a few years previously the extra-curricular activities consisted mainly of sports and the activities of the Physical Science Club. Unlike College students in Mysore, we here did not have the advantage of a University Union and though a building was built for the purpose it was assigned to alien purposes. A great change was coming over the minds of the students owing to the National Movement. Gandhiji's visit to Bangalore in 1920 in the course of his non-co-operation campaign, bestirred the whole student community. But it did not result in the students coming out of Government institutions in any marked measure since they were not regarded as forming part of a foreign system. Matters of public interest and particularly political issues began to engage the minds of the students. Some years previously, the Kannada Sahitya Parishat had come into existence as the formal instrument for implementing the urge that had developed all over the country to give Kannada its natural place in the life of the people. The same urge found its informal expression nowhere

more adequately and effectively than through the Karnataka Sangha of the Central College. It was the inestimable good luck of the College that the Sangha was brought into existence and nurtured by men like Prof. A. R. Krishna Sastry and Prof. T. S. Venkannaiya. They represented the ideal combination of deep and accurate scholarship in the Kannada classics with an equally sound knowledge of Western literature and its outlook of constructive criticism. They had themselves owed their inspiration to Prof. B. M. Srikantia (an old boy of the Central College). In turn, they enthused and inspired the whole student world. The Sangha had for its President Prof. B. Venkatanaranappa who had already dedicated his spare time and energies to the cause of Kannada by his work at the Parishat and by popularising Science in Kannada. The journal 'ಕನ್ನಡ' started by him was a landmark in that direction. They had the good fortune to count amongst their friends other men devoted to the cause of Kannada and all of them formed a glorious group. Sri D. V. Gundappa, Sri Masti Venkatesa Iyengar, Sri B. Venkoba Rao, Sri M. R. Srinivasa Murthy and Sri V. Sitaramiah were some of them. The lectures given by Sri Venkatesa Iyengar and Sri Gundappa under the auspices of the Karnataka Sangha have become classics in the field of Kannada literary essays. Amongst the great scholars who participated in the functions of the Sangha were the late Sri R. Narasimha-char, Sri H. Krishna Sastry, Sri Panje Mangesha Rao and Sri Kukke Subrahmanya Sastri. This spirit of renaissance was not confined to matters of formal literature and, indeed, that literature was as large as life was not only the thesis of some of the talks but was illustrated

by some of the lecturers. In this context I may mention Sri Manjappa Hardikar, a saintly man who spread the gospel of the simple and truthful life. He addressed the Sangha on more than one occasion and it may be of interest to know that during his visits he stayed in the College Hostel with a student of modest and retiring disposition, quiet spoken, dressed simply in meticulous white. He was then known as Sri B. Swami Rao and is no other than my good friend, the present Principal of the College.

Amongst the achievements of the Karnataka Sangha must be mentioned the revival and development of the art of reading and reciting Kannada works like the Bharathas of Kumara Vyasa and Jaimini and other classical works. The most outstanding exponent of this art was Sri S. G. Bindu Rao. On the first occasion when he gave a reading he sent a thrill through the whole audience. A number of students took to learning this art, competitions were held every year and it has now spread widely. Together with this developed the art of reciting poems. It may be difficult today to believe that, prior to the period I am speaking of, poems pure and simple, lyrical or otherwise, apart from folk-songs and *Dasara padas* were a phenomenon almost unknown to Kannada. The younger generation, including the student world, began to make its own contribution in this field and I may mention that a Young Poets' Conference was organised by the Sangha and was presided over by Sri K. V. Puttappa.

The most important contribution of the Sangha was the periodical “ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ”. While, true to its name, it was

the vehicle of Kannada renaissance, its guardians took care to maintain the highest standards in regard to its contents and format. It spread the influence of the Sangha far beyond the confines of the State and came to be looked upon as the authentic voice of the new movement, every issue being eagerly looked forward to, to contain some new and significant feature and the expectation never being belied.

I have mentioned above that there was no University Union in Bangalore. The Karnataka Sangha came to fulfil the Union's function and amongst its activities must be mentioned the first inter-Collegiate debates which were the precursors of the many that have now become a regular and widespread feature of academic activity. The debate in the Central College was preceded by one in Mysore and one of the objects of organising them was to bring about personal contact between the students of the two Colleges. Amongst the four persons who were deputed from this College were Sri H. V. R. Iyengar, now Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Sri S. D. Ganesha Rao, a leading Advocate of the High Court here, Sri Bhoopalram Chandrasekhariah, a well-known figure in Mysore politics, and myself. We had a right royal reception at Mysore and were accorded all the honours of a foreign delegation. The debate itself was a glorious event and I remember that amongst the Maharaja's College team were Sri A. N. Moorthy Rao, Sri Narayana Rao Nikkam and Sri Zia Ahmed (known in the field of sports as Pasha). In the debate held here, the Mysore team was headed by Sri J. B. Mallaradhya who had distinguished himself in the University Union at Mysore

and whose natural talents in public speaking and debate are now happily available again in the public forum. In the succeeding year, the Karnataka College, Dharwar, also participated in the Inter-Collegiate debate and was represented by two students whose surnames were Hirekeroor and Bagi. It was a forecast of events which took more than thirty years to materialize.

I may close this account with mentioning another significant event that took place during that period. It was the session of the Indian Science Congress in 1924. Great advances had been made in all fields of Science. The work of Bohr, Thomson and Rutherford had thrown a new light on the constitution of matter and Einstein's general theory of relativity had set men of Science to re-think the basic postulates. The achievements of Jagadish Chandra Bose and P. C. Ray had kindled the scientific spirit of the

younger generation in this country. Prof. Raman's name was one to conjure with. The Physics and Mathematics Section was presided over by him. Naturally the students looked forward to the Congress with great enthusiasm and had the opportunity of hearing and coming into contact with many distinguished scientists. Prof. J. C. Ghosh of Dacca who later on became the Director of the Indian Institute of Science and Prof. Mahalanobis who is now the Director of the Statistical Institute at Calcutta and Prof. Nilratan Dhar of Allahabad were some amongst those who captivated the minds of the students. It should be added that the visiting scientists felt at home not only because of the excellent arrangements made for the Congress but also because they found in the College staff men of kindred spirit and attainments.

NITTOOR SREENIVASA RAU

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

I WAS FEELING MIGHTY HAPPY IN THE Library Hall of our old College on 10th August 1923. Reason. This day was the last day to bid for the old magazines of the previous year. I was, about 2 P.M., the highest bidder for the Punch copies, at one Rupee. My rivals were all in the 'annas' group. Closing time for bids was 4 P.M. I was almost certain I would have all the Punch copies.

With a Rupee in my hands, I went to the Librarian on 11th August and asked him for the Punch numbers. A little dis-

dainfully he looked at me, over his spectacle rims, for he used to mount his spectacles midway down on the nose, and said, "you are not the highest bidder. The Principal is, and at Rupees four."

With an impious mind, harbouring all kinds of crazy ideas about rich Professors and their ancestors, I walked out of the Library.

A week later the Principal sent for me. I was not a student of any of his classes and was a stranger to him. Those

days the Principal sending for a student was like being sent for now-a-days by the Income-tax Officer. Torn pages from Library books; Pinched pictures from Magazines; Lost laboratory ware; Incorrect statements in the freeship application forms; I was wondering when and where I had slipped up. Hesitantly I walked into his room. He looked at me and said, "So you like the Punch Magazine! Here is a bundle of them. Take them and enjoy them." The Principal was Dr. Metcalfe. I was too surprised to thank him then. And I am therefore doing so now.

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I had one of two alternatives for Dissection in the Practical Zoology Examination; the circulator system of the frog, or the V nerve ganglion and branches. As all foolish green examinees do, I picked up a huge bull frog and started dissecting the circulatory system. Halfway through I punctured his heart and severed the aorta. The whole table and Board was full of blood. Hastily I cleaned up the Table and Board, reversed the frog and put him on his ventral aspect, tucked up the abdominal flaps inside and started dissecting the V nerve ganglion. The lecturer had hinted that the nervous system of the frog was not very important, and I had never read that. Now I realised he was referring to the written papers only. Anyway I had no choice. I ripped open the skull cap of the frog and found that the Twin Examiners foreign and domestic, were walking up to my table. The foreign examiner looked at the specimen and seemed to be happy. He himself pointed to the structures and said "Is this not that"; "Is that not this"; "Is this so and so"; "Is that so and so". Completely

dazed I was nodding my head. "Excellent work" he told his colleague and walked up to another table. The domestic or home examiner patted me on the back and said "Lucky chap; Next time you tuck up the abdomen of the frog and reverse him on the board, tuck back the guts also. See, they are peeping through. Anyway my colleague thinks you are good and I usually agree with what the foreign colleague says. And if he did not see that this is what has been done on that side, then I too do not." I passed in the Examination and was wondering about this and that being that and this, till late in life I wondered if thou art that (ತತಃ ತ್ವಂ ಆಸಿ) was based on such statements.

x x x x

In the good old days, it was not as if everything was good. Surely there should have been painful incidents. But somehow I am unable to remember them. Perhaps Nature has blessed us with this precious gift 'forgetfulness' to continue Her own plans for life. However one cannot forget incidents that made one laugh boisterously then, and even at this distance of time make one smile.

"The old changeth order yielding new to place" was how I was deliriously introduced to Tennyson by a very sweet Master, whose thoughts ran so fast, that the tongue was unable to keep pace and articulate all the words without spoonering them here and there and often.

In an English literature class on John Morley I did listen to a brilliant exposition of the Boot Trade in England and how the British leather was the finest and most durable.

As a volunteer for the Indian Science Congress, I had to take an urgent message to the Vice-Chancellor, the late Prof. Brajendranath Seal. And the great philosopher was working problems in Mathematics. He must have seen my surprised look and said “ Mathematics is my recreation, my boy—very refreshing ” Imagine

Mathematics as a recreation ! I have not yet got over the Shock.

The good part of the old days lives in our memory—and I hope for a long long time, for most of the Centre Collegians.

M. SIVARAM

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ಕೆಲವು ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳು

“ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್” ಎಂಬ ಎರಡು ಪದಗಳು ಕಿವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದರೆ—ನಮ್ಮ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ಕಂಡರೆ—ಬಗೆ ಬಗೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಸಾಹವು ಉಕ್ಕುತ್ತದೆ; ನನ್ನ ವಯಸ್ಸೇ ಹತ್ತಾರು ವರ್ಷಗಳು ಕಡಮೆಯಾದಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ. ತಲೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಹಾಗೆ ಟೋಪಿಯಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಉಲ್ಲಾಸವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. “ಆ ದಿನಗಳು ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿ!” ಎಂದು ಪೇಚಾಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈಗಿನ ಮಧ್ಯದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಅದರ ಎಡದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಬಲದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ—ಇವು ಮೂರೇ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು. ಈಗಿನಷ್ಟು ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳಾಗಲಿ, ಈಗಿನಷ್ಟು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಾಗಲಿ, ಈಗಿನಷ್ಟುಮಟ್ಟಿನ ಉಡುಪುಗಳ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯಾಗಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಡೀ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು ಪರಮಾವಧಿಯೆಂದರೆ ಮೂರು ಅಥವಾ ನಾಲ್ಕು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಆರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು, “ಗಂಡುಹುಡುಗರ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ” ಬಂದು ಓದುವ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸ್ತ್ರೀವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸವು ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಿತೆಂದು ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಸಂತೋಷ; “ಈ ಹುಡುಗಿಯರು ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮಹಾ

ರಾಣೀ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚರಿತ್ರೇನೋ ಗಿರಿತ್ರೇನೋ ತೆಗೆದು ಕೊಂಡು ಓದೋದು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಸೈನ್ಸಿಗೇಕೆ ತಲೆಹಾಕಿದರು? ಗಂಡುಹುಡುಗರ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಇವರು ಬರದೇ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವೇ ಮುಳುಗಿಹೋಗುತ್ತೇನೋ!” ಎಂದು ಹಲವರಿಗೆ ಸಂಕಟ. (ಆಗ್ಗೆ ಮಹಾರಾಣೀ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.) ಈಗಿನಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಅವರ ಸಂಕಟವು ಈಗ ಇನ್ನೆಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆಯೋ! ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪಾಠ ಪ್ರವಚನಗಳು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ ಎಂಟು ಘಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಎಂಟು ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಾಗಲಿ, ಅದು ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗುವಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಾಗಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಆಗ್ಗೆ ನೂರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚುಮಂದಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ನಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿಗೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಕಂಡೇ ಪರಮಾಶ್ಚರ್ಯ; “ಕೌರವರ ಪಡೆ” ಯೆಂದೂ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ತರಗತಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು (ಪರೋಕ್ಷವಾಗಿ ಮಾತ್ರ, ಅದೂ ಒಂದೊಂದು ವೇಳೆ) ಕರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದುಂಟು. ಆಗ್ಗೆ ಮದರಾಸು ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದ್ದಿತು, ನಮ್ಮ (ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್) ಕಾಲೇಜು; ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ

ಹದಿನೆಂಟರಿಂದ ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತರವರೆಗೆ ನಾತ್ರವೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ತೇರ್ಗಡೆಹೊಂದುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕಾರಣ, ಮೇಲಿನ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ “ಕಾರವರ ಪಡೆ” ಇರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಚಿನ ಮೂವತ್ತು ನಲವತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನವು ಬಹಳವಾಗಿ ವೃದ್ಧಿಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಆದಕಾರಣ, ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಪಠ್ಯವಿಷಯಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯು ಈಗಿನಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ಮೊಳದಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಮೊಳಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಜುಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು. ನಮ್ಮ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲನೆಯ—ತಾವು ತಮ್ಮ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಸಬೆಯ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗಿನಂತೆಯೇ—ಜಡೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಣೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದು ಅಪಹಾಸ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಿ, ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೂರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಬಾರದೆ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡದ್ದೂ ಉಂಟು. ಅವರು ಅಪಹಾಸ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರಿಯಾದ ದಿನ ಅವರೊಡನೆ ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದ ನಾಲ್ಕುಮಂದಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೂ “ಹಳ್ಳೀಗಮಾರ್” ಎಂಬ “ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ” ಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲವರು ಕೀಟಲೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಅದನ್ನು ಪಡೆದವರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನೂ ಒಬ್ಬ. ಅಂದು ನಾವು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದ ಬೆಂಚಿಗೆ “ಗಮಾರ್ ಸಿಮೆಟ್ರಿ ಬೆಂಚ್” ಎಂದು ಹೆಸರಾಯಿತು; ಏಕೆಂದರೆ, ಅಂದು ಆ ಬೆಂಚಿನಮೇಲೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ಐವರು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದೆವು; ಜಡೆಯವರು ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ; ಅವರ ಬಲಕ್ಕೆಬ್ಬರು ಮತ್ತು ಎಡಕ್ಕೆಬ್ಬರು; ಈ ನಾಲ್ವರೂ “ಜುಟ್ಟಿಗ”ರು; ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಉಡುಪುಗಳೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಉಡುಪಿನಂತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಗರೂ ಹುಳಿಯೂ “ಮುರಿದು” ಹಣ್ಣು ಮಧುರವಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ, ಆ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದ ನೆನಪೂ ಈಗ ಸವಿನೆನಪಾಗಿಯೇ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದು ಮುಸ್ಲಿಮರಿಂದ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ—ಅಲ್ಲವೇ?

ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಆಗಲೂ ಈಗಿನಂತೆಯೇ ವಿಶೇಷ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯಿದ್ದಿತು. ಆಗ್ಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವು ಕಲ್ಪಿತವಾಗಿದ್ದುದು ಅದೊಂದೇ ಕಾಲೇಜು; ದಕ್ಷರೂ ಮೇಧಾವಿಗಳೂ ಅದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶವು ನಮ. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಕಾರಣ.

ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನದಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರಣವೆಂದರೆ, ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ. ಜಿ. ಟೇಟ್ ಅವರು ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದ ಖ್ಯಾತಿ. ಮದರಾಸಿನಿಂದ ಕೂಡ, ಕೆಲವರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಸೇರಿದ್ದುದೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ನಿದರ್ಶನ. ಶ್ರೀ ಟೇಟ್ ಅವರು ಈಚೆಗೆ ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಿರುವುದೇನೂ ನಿಜವೇ. ಆದರೆ, ಅವರು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟರೆಂದು ನಂಬುವುದೇ ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅವರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಾಗುವ ಸುಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದವರ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನೂ ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನೂ ಒಟ್ಟುಗೂಡಿಸಿದರೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡದೊಂದು ಗ್ರಂಥವಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಅವರು ಒಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೆಂದರೆಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ನಮ್ಮ ಹಿರಿಯರನೇಕರು ಅವರ ಗುಣಗಾನ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದದನ್ನು ಹಲವುಸಾರಿ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ—ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ—ಅವರ ಪದತಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ತೀವ್ರಾಭಿಲಾಷೆಯಿಂದ ನಾನು ನಮ್ಮ (ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್) ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಅವರು ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸಾರಿ ನಮ್ಮ ತರಗತಿಗೆ (“ಜ್ಯೂನಿಯರ್ ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್” ತರಗತಿಗೆ) ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗಲೇ, ಅವರ ಸರಳತೆಯನ್ನೂ, ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನೂ, ಗಾಂಭೀರ್ಯವನ್ನೂ ಕಂಡು ಬೆರಗಾದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನೂ ಒಬ್ಬ. ಬಹಳ ಎತ್ತರವಾದ ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಷ್ಟು ದಪ್ಪವಾದ ದೇಹ; ಬಲದ ಅಂಗೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮಸಿಯ ಕುಡಿಕೆ (ಗಾಜಿನದು); ಎಡದ ಅಂಗೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಠದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ; ಎಡದ ಕಾಂಕುಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುಕಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ (“ಅಟೆಂಡೆನ್ಸ್ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರು”); ಕಿವಿಯ ಮೇಲುಗಡೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಪೇನಾ; ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರು—ಯೂರೋಪಿಯನ್ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸಾಹೇಬರು—ಹೀಗೆ ಸರಳವಾಗಿರಬಹುದೆಂಬ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯೋಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರು ಕೂಡ, “ಅಟೆಂಡೆನ್ಸ್ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್” ಮುಂತಾದವನ್ನು ಜವಾನನ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರು ಅವನ್ನು ಆ ರೀತಿ ತಾವೇ ಹೊತ್ತುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದುದು ಪರಮಾಶ್ಚರ್ಯ

ವೆನಿಸಿತು. ಅವರು ಬಂದಕೂಡಲೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡಾಗ ತನಗೆ ಆ ಬಗೆಯ ಗೌರವ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನವು ಬೇಕಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದೂ, ಆ ಬಗೆಯ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನದ ಆಡಂಬರಕ್ಕಿಂತ ತನ್ನ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಹೃದಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಗೌರವಗಳು ನೆಲೆಸಿದರೆ ಅದು ತನಗೆ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ ಕಾಣಿಕೆಯೆಂದೂ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಅವರ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಪಾಂಡಿತ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಗಳೂ, ವಿಮರ್ಶೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರಿಗಿದ್ದ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವೂ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಮನಸ್ಸನ್ನೂ ಬೆರಗುಮಾಡಿದುವೆಂದರೆ, ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಲೇಶ ಮಾತ್ರವೂ ಅತಿಶಯೋಕ್ತಿಯಿಲ್ಲ; ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವಾಗ, ಅವರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಯಾವುದೋ ಪ್ರಸಂಚಕ್ಕೆ ತೇಲಿಹೋಗುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು; ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವಾಗ, ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅವರೂ ಮೈಮರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಬಹಳ ಹೊತ್ತು ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿದ ಮೇಲೆ “ಈ ದಿನ ಗಡಿಯಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಏನೋ ಆಗಿರಬೇಕು. ಇನ್ನೂ ಘಂಟೆಯೇ ಹೊಡೆಯಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗಷ್ಟು ಘಂಟೆಯೇ ಹೇಳಿ” ಎಂದರು. (ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮೊಡನೆ ಗಡಿಯಾರವನ್ನು ತಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ). ಅವರು ಹಾಗೆನ್ನುವ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಗೋಪುರದ ಗಡಿಯಾರದಲ್ಲಿ “ಡಣ್ ಡಣ್” ಎಂದು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಘಂಟೆಗಳು ಮೊಳಗಿದುವು. ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ ಎರಡು ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದ ಪಾಠವು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆದಿದೆ; ಮೂರುಘಂಟೆಯಾದಾಗ ಗೋಪುರದ ಗಡಿಯಾರವು ಘಂಟೆಯನ್ನೂ ಹೊಡೆದಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ, ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗ್ನರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅವರಿಗೂ ಅದರ ಪರಿವೇಶ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ; ಅವರ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತ ಮೈಮರೆತಿದ್ದ ನಮಗೂ ಅದರ ಪರಿವೇಶ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೂರು ಘಂಟೆಗೇ ಮುಗಿಯಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಪಾಠವು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆದುಹೋಯಿತು; ಮೂರರಿಂದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೂ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ (Physics) ಪಾಠವು ತಪ್ಪಿಹೋಯಿತು. ಶ್ರೀ ಟೀಟ್ ಸಾಹೇಬರು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ (ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ) ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ತಾವೇ ಹೋಗಿ ಕ್ಷಮೆಯನ್ನು ಬೇಡಿದರೆಂದು ಮಾರನೆಯ ದಿನ ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲ ತಿಳಿಯಿತು. ಅವರ

ವಿದ್ವತ್ತೂ ವಿಚಾರಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವೂ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗುವ ಮತ್ತೆರಡು ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳನ್ನೂ ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ: ಒಮ್ಮೆ, ಅವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಪಠ್ಯ ಪುಸ್ತಕವೊಂದರ ಸಂಬಂಧವಾದ ಒಂದು ಜಟಿಲ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಬರೆದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅಪ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು; ಮಂದರಾಸಿನಿಂದ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯವರೊಬ್ಬರು ದಸರಾ ರಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂದರಾಸಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಅದೇ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಬರೆಯಿಸಿದ್ದ ಉತ್ತರದ ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಮಿತ್ರರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದು ತಂದಿದ್ದ ಕಾರಣ, ಅದನ್ನು ಚಾಚೂ ತಪ್ಪದೆ ನಕಲುಮಾಡಿ ತಾವು ಬರೆದ ಪ್ರಬಂಧವೆಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದರು; (ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರವರ ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಹಿಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಡುವ ದಿನ) ಆ ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಕಟುವಾಗಿ ಟೀಕಿಸಿ ಅದರ ಶೈಲಿಯು ಸೊಗಸಾಗಿದ್ದಿತಾದರೂ, ವಿಚಾರ ಸರಣಿಯು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೂ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದೂ, ಅಸಂಗತವಾದ ಮತ್ತು ಅನನ್ವಯವೆನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅದು ತುಂಬಿದ್ದಿತೆಂದೂ, ಸಾಹೇಬರು ಸಕಾರಣವಾಗಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು; ತಾವು ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತುಹಾಕಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯು ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದೊಂದು ಧಾಷ್ಟ್ಯದಿಂದ “ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ನನಗೆ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೆ, ಸ್ವಾಮಿ” (“I admire you, Sir”) ಎಂದರು. ಶಿಷ್ಯರ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೆಯ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿ ಗುರುಗಳ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಹೇಗಾಗಿರಬೇಕೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ವರ್ಣಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಊಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇ ಉತ್ತಮ. ಸಾಹೇಬರು, “I see; really?” ಎಂದರು. ಅವರು ಆ ಮೂರು ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿದ ರೀತಿಯು, “ನೀವು ಹೀಗೆ ಹೇಳಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ನನ್ನ ಜನ್ಮವೇ ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಯಿತು” ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರೋ—ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆಯುಂಟಾಗುವಷ್ಟು ವ್ಯಂಗ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದಿತು. ತಮ್ಮ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸುವ ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಷ್ಯರು ವ್ಯಂಗ್ಯವನ್ನರಿಯದೆ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ತಾವೇ ಬರೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದ್ದ ತಪ್ಪು ಹೊರಬೀಳುವದೆಂಬುದನ್ನೇ ಗಮನಿಸದೆ, “ಅದನ್ನು ಪ್ರೌಢ ಸರ್.....ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿ ಬರೆಯಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಟೀಕೆಯಿಂದ ಅದು ನುಚ್ಚುನುರಿಯಾಗಿ ತೂರಿ ಹೋಯಿತು. ಇದು ನಮ್ಮ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ” ಎಂದು ಅರ್ಥ

ವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಮದರಾಸಿನ ಆ ಪ್ರಿಂಸಿಪಲ್ ರವರೂ ಪ್ರಖ್ಯಾತರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಯೂರೋಪಿಯನ್ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರೇ. (ಅವರ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸುವುದು ಉಚಿತವಲ್ಲವೆಂಬ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಅದನ್ನು ಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ). ಗುರುಗಳ ವಿದ್ವತ್ತನ್ನೂ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯನ್ನೂ ಮನಗಂಡು, ಶಿಷ್ಯರಾದ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯೂ ಸಂತೋಷವೂ ಉಂಟಾದುವು. ಆದರೆ ಗುರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಹಳ ಸಂಕೋಚವೂ ಮುಗ್ಧತ್ವವೂ ಆದುವು; ಅವರು ("The class may go" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ) ತರಗತಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಟುಹೋದರು. ಪಾಠದ ಅವಧಿಯು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ (ಅದುವರೆಗೇ ಆಗಲಿ, ಆ ಬಳಿಕವೇ ಆಗಲಿ) ಅವರು ಆ ರೀತಿ ಮತ್ತೆಂದೂ ತರಗತಿಯಿಂದ ಹೋದುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇತರ ಯೂರೋಪಿಯನ್ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿಗೂ ಅವರಿಗೂ—ಪಾಠಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ—ಅಜಗಜಾಂತರ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸಗಳಿದ್ದುವು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ. ಜಿ. ಟೀಟ್ ಅವರ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಶ್ರದ್ಧೆಯ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿಯೂ ಎರಡು ಮೂರು ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ: ಆಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತಾವ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೂ ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಘಂಟೆಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಘಂಟೆಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದಲ್ಲದೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ತಿಂಗಳಿಗಿರಡರಂತೆ ಬರೆಯಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಬಂಧಗಳನ್ನು ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿದ್ದಿ ತರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಒಂದು ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡ, ಅವರು ಪಾಠವನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸದೆ ಏನೂ ನಡೆಯದೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಹೇಗೋ ಹಾಗಿ—ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿದರು: ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಅವರು ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕೋತಿಯು ಕಿಟಕಿಯಿಂದ ಬಂದು, ಅವರ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಹೆಗಲಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಹಿಂಗಾಲನ್ನಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು, ಅವರ ಹೆಕ್ಕತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತು, ತನ್ನ ಮುಂಗಾಲುಗಳಿಂದ ಅವರ ಹಣೆಯನ್ನು ತಬ್ಬಿಕೊಂಡು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡುತ್ತ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡಿತು. ಗುರುಗಳು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಗಮನವನ್ನೇ ಕೊಡದೆ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದ್ದರು. ಆ ಕೋತಿಯು ಕಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡಿ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ನಗಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆವು. ಸಾಹೇಬರು "ಕೋತಿಗೆ ಹಲ್ಲುಕಿರಿಯುವುದನ್ನು

ನೀವು ಕಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಆವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಕಾಲವು ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ. ಪಾಠಕ್ಕೆ ಗಮನಕೊಡಿ" ("You need not teach the monkey how to grin. Time is precious. Please follow the lesson") ಎಂದರು. ಪಾಠವು ಮುಂದುವರಿಯಿತು; ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದ್ದೆವು; ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೊತ್ತಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೋತಿಯು ಕೆಳಕ್ಕಿಳಿದು ಹೊರಟುಹೋಯಿತು. ಒಂದು ದಿನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಹೋಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿಯೇ ಅವರು ತರಗತಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಕುರ್ಚಿಯಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ನಿಂತುಕೊಂಡು ಪಾಠಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದೇ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ವಾಡಿಕೆ. ಅವರು ನಮಗಿಂತ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಂದು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ನಮಗೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. ಹತ್ತಿರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ನೋಡಿದೆವು; ಹಣೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ, ಬಲದ ಮೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಮೇಲೆ, ಬಲಗೈ ಬೆರಳುಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳು! ಅವರು ಸೈನ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹುದ್ದೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು ಗೌರವಾರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅಂದು ಕುದುರೆಯಿಂದ ಬಿದ್ದು ಘಾಸಿಹೊಂದಿ ನೋವಿನಿಂದ ನರಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಹಾಗಿದ್ದೂ, ಪಾಠವು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾದೊಡನೆ, ತಾವು ಪೂರ್ಣಾರೋಗ್ಯದಿಂದಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳತೊಡಗಿದರು. ಒಂದೊಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಭರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಬಲಗೈ ಬೆರಳುಗಳನ್ನು ಎಡದ ಅಂಗೈಮೇಲೆ ರಭಸದಿಂದ ಬಡಿಯುತ್ತ ಬೋಧೆಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ವಾಡಿಕೆ. ಅಂದೂ ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಬೆರಳುಗಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಗಾಯಗಳಿಂದ ರಕ್ತವು ಚಿಮ್ಮಿತು. ಆದರೂ ಪಾಠವನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸದೆ, ಕೈಚೌಕದಿಂದ ಗಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿದುಕೊಂಡೇ ಪಾಠವನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದರು. ಆ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೂರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನಗಳು, ಇತರರ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ಹೇಗೋ ಕಷ್ಟದಿಂದ ನಡೆದುಬಂದು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಕುರ್ಚಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದು ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಅವರ ಸದ್ಗುಣಗಳ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಅನೇಕ ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳಿವೆ. ಸ್ಥಳಾಭಾವದಿಂದ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಡ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರು ಸ್ವಂತ ಹಣದಿಂದ ಮಾಡಿದ ಸಹಾಯಗಳ ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳೇ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯಾತವಾಗಿವೆ.

“ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್” ಆಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರಿಂದ ಬಗೆಬಗೆಯ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಗಳೂ ಸಹಾಯಗಳೂ ಲಭಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಸೀನಿಯರ್ ಇಂಟರ್‌ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ತರಗತಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೂರು ಗುಂಪುಗಳಾಗಿ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಿ ಪರ್ಯಾಯ ಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ “ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ವರ್ಕ್” ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಗುಂಪಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೂ ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಂದುದಿನ ಅಖಂಡವಾಗಿ ಮೂರು ಘಂಟೆಗಳ ಕಾಲ ನಡೆಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು; ಉಳಿದ ಎರಡು ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ನಿ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ, ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ, ರಸಾಯನ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಮುಂತಾದುವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಭಾಗದ ಪಾಠವು (Practical work) ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದದ್ದು ನಾಡಿಕೆ. ಗುರುಗಳು ಆಗ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಭಂಡಾರದ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನೂ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿ, ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಬೆಂಚಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆಗ ಅವರು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯದ ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳೆಂದಿಗೂ ಮಾಸವು.

ಉಳಿದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಪಾಠಪ್ರವಚನಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯದ ಸವಿನೆನಪುಗಳೂ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯಾತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಒಬ್ಬರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ “ನಾನು experiment ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದೀನಿ, ಸಾರ್. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕೆಲಸವಿದೆ. ಹೋಗ್ತೀನಿ, permission ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಡಿ, ಸಾರ್” ಎಂದು (ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿದ್ದ) ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ವೆಂಕಟನಾರಾಯಣಪ್ಪನವರನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದರು ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು, “No. You cannot go. You repeat it. Even if you repeat it for ten years you cannot finish the experiment” ಎಂದು ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯು ಎದೆಗುಂದದೆ ಸಮಯಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಯಿಂದ, “ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದೇ ದಿನ ಈ experiment ನಡೆಯುತ್ತೆ. ತಮ್ಮ ಮಾತಿನಂತೆ ನಾನು ಹತ್ತುವರ್ಷ ಇದೇ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೊಂದು ದಿನ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಇದನ್ನು ಮಾಡ್ತಾ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಒಳ್ಳೇ ಆಶೀರ್ವಾದ ಮಾಡಿದಿರಿ ಸಾರ್!” ಎಂದರು. ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಹೃದಯ ಕರಗಿಹೋಯಿತು. ಅವರು “ನಾನು ಆ

ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಲಿಲ್ಲ; ಖಂಡಿತ ಇಲ್ಲ. You can go. I have given you permission” ಎಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಬೆನ್ನುತಟ್ಟಿ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯ ತೋರಿ, ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟೊಂಡರು. ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಗೋಪಾಲಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಐಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ಯರು, ಇಂಟರ್‌ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಯಾದಮೇಲೆ ಗಣಿತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರವನ್ನು ಐಚ್ಛಿಕ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಆರಿಸದಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡ, ಮೊದಲಿನಂತೆಯೇ ಏಕರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಮತೆಯನ್ನೂ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವನ್ನೂ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠವರ್ಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಹೃದಯರು. ರಾವ್‌ಬಹದೂರ್ ಬಿ. ವೆಂಕಟೇಶಾಚಾರ್ಯರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಪಾಠಗಳು ಬಹಳ ಸ್ವಾರಸ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಶಿಷ್ಯರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯವು ಅವರದು. ಏಕಾದಶಿಯದಿನ ಅವರು ಉಪನಾಸಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಶ್ರಮವಾದರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಲಕ್ಷ್ಯಮಾಡದೆ ಅಂದೂ ಎಂದಿನಂತೆಯೇ ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು; ಜ್ವರ ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾಗ ಕೂಡ, ಒಂದೆರಡು ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದುಂಟು. ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ತೆಲಾಂಗ್ ಅವರು, ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಸಿ. ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠಯ್ಯನವರು, ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಬಿ. ಸಂಜೀವರಾಯರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಗರಣಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಚಾರ್ಯರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಟಿ. ನಾರಾಯಣ ಐಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ಯರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಎಫ್. ಆರ್. ಸೆಲ್ ಅವರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಇ. ಜಿ. ಮೆಕ್‌ಆಲ್ಪೈನ್ ಅವರು, ಮುಂತಾದವರ ಪಾಠಪ್ರವಚನಗಳನ್ನೂ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯವನ್ನೂ ಮರೆಯುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ.

ನಮ್ಮ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸಂಬಂಧವಾದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಿನೆನಪನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ನಾನು ಅತ್ಯಂತವಾಗಿ ಹರ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅದು, ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಘ—ಇವುಗಳ ಸವಿನೆನಪು. ಇವೆರಡಕ್ಕೂ ಮೂಲ, ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರುಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧ್ಯವಸಾಯ. ಎಂ. ಎ. ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೇರ್ಗಡೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದವರು

ಕನ್ನಡದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಅದೇ ಮೊದಲು; ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು ತಿಳಿಗನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಠಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು; ಕೆಲವರಂತೆ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಕೇವಲ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವಷ್ಟರಿಂದ ಮಾತ್ರವೇ ತೃಪ್ತರಾಗಿ ಕುಳಿತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದೊಂದು ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಅದರಿಂದ ಆದ ಪರಿಣಾಮವು ಅಪಾರ; ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಬೇಸರವಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದೀತೋ—ಎಂದು ಅವರ ಶಿಷ್ಯರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರ ಶಿಷ್ಯರಾದ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಮೂಕಸಂಕಟದ ಬೇಗುದಿಗೆ ಗುರಿಯಾದ ಒಂದು ಸಂದರ್ಭವನ್ನು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿದರ್ಶನವಾಗಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ: ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಪ್ರಬಂಧಲೇಖನದ ತರಗತಿಯು (“ಓಲ್ಡ್ ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಥಿಯೇಟರ್” ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) ನಡೆಯುವಂತೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದ್ದಿತು. ಸೀನಿಯರ್ ಇಂಟರ್ ಮೀಡಿಯಟ್ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ) ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು ಬರುವ ವರೆಗೂ ಹರಟೆ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಅವರು ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ, ನಾವು ಮೇಜಿನ ಕಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡಿದೆವು. ಮೇಜಿನ ಮೇಲೊಂದು ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಗಡಿಗೆ; ಅದರ ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಸಿದ್ದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪರಕೆ! ನಾವು ಅದರ ಕಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಡಕೆಯನ್ನೂ ಪರಕೆಯನ್ನೂ ನಾವೇ ಮೇಜಿನ ಮೇಲಿಟ್ಟವರೆಂದು ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿದು ಕೊಂಡರೋ—ಎಂದು ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೂ ಆತಂಕವಾಯಿತು. ಅವರು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಬೈದಿದ್ದರೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ವ್ಯಥೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಕೋಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವರೆಂದೇ ಎಣಿಸಿದ್ದೆವು. ಅವರು ಶಾಂತವಾಗಿಯೇ ಇದ್ದು ಪರಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಬರೆಯಬೇಕೆಂದು ಆಜ್ಞಾಪಿಸಿದರು. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೂ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನಪಟ್ಟುಕೊಳ್ಳದಿದ್ದ ಅವರ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಗುಣವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಬೆಕ್ಕಸಬೆರಗಾದೆವು. ನಾನು ಅಂದು ಬರೆದ ಪ್ರಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಅವರು ಬಹಳ ವಾಗಿ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿ ಇತರ ತರಗತಿಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆದುರಿಗೆ

ಕೂಡ ಓದಿ ಹೇಳಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಅದನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಓದಿ, ಅಕ್ಕರೆಯ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನಾಡಿದರು ಮೇಜಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಗಡಿಗೆಯನ್ನಿಟ್ಟು ಪರಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಸಿದ್ದವರಾರೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ಗೊತ್ತುಮಾಡಲು ನಾವು ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದರೂ ಫಲವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಶ್ರೀ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳೇನೋ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂದಿನಂತೆಯೇ ವಾತ್ಸಲ ತೋರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, “ಅವರೇನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡರೋ” ಎಂಬ ಮೂಕಸಂಕಟದ ಬೇಗುದಿಯು ಬಹುಕಾಲ ತಪ್ಪಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳ ಪಾಠಪ್ರವಚನಗಳು ವಿದ್ವತ್ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿಯೂ ಚಿತ್ತಾಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿಯೂ ಇರುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಅವರ ಪಾಠಕ್ರಮದ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯದಿಂದ ಕನ್ನಡ ತರಗತಿಗಳಿಗೇ ಕಳೆಯೇರಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಮಾನಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದುವು. ಅವರ ಸಂತತ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಮೇಲಿನ ಅಭಿಮಾನವು ಉದ್ದೀಪಿತವಾಯಿತು. ಹುಟ್ಟು ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರೇ ಆದ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರು ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು ತಮಗೆ ಅಸಮಾನವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲವದು; “ಕನ್ನಡವೂ ಒಂದು ಭಾಷೆಯೇ? ಎಂದು ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲವದು. ಆ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಯ ಕೆಲಕೆಲವು ಉತ್ತಮ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಚೇತೋಹಾರಿಯಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆಮಾಡಿ ಅವುಗಳ ಹಿರಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಶ್ರೀ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು. ಹೃದಯಂಗಮವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅವರ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಡವೆಂದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಹೃದಯವು ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಕುಣಿಯುವಂತಾಯಿತು. ಅವರ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರದಿಂದ, ಕನ್ನಡದ ಮೇಲಿನ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಗೌರವಗಳೇ ಮುಂತಾದ ಅನೇಕ ಸದ್ಗುಣಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲಿಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಾಯಿತು. ಅವರು ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಇತಿಮಿತಿಗಳೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ೧೯೧೮ನೆಯ ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದವರು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ ಗ್ರಂಥಲೇಖನ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಏಳುನೂರು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಬಹುಮಾನವು ಲಭಿಸಿದಾಗ, ಅವರು ಆಡಿದ ಸಂತೋಷದ ಮಾತುಗಳು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಕಿವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ

ಮೊಳಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಅದರಿಂದ ಲಭಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಭಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಾಲದು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘವು, ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹೊತ್ತಿಸಿದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬೆಳುದೀವಿಗೆ. ನಾನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಅದು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾಗಿ, ಅವರ ಕೃಪೆಯಿಂದ ಆಗ್ಗೆ ನನಗೂ ಅದರ ಸೇವಾಭಾಗ್ಯವು ಲಭಿಸಿದುದು ನನ್ನ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ; ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸವಿನೆನವು. ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತಾವ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘವೂ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದಕಾರಣ, ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘವೇ ಆ ಬಗೆಯ ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸಂಘ. ಈಚೆಗೆ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯಾತ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಏರ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಕನ್ನಡನಾಡು ನುಡಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಪಿಸುವಂತಾಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ, ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಸಂಘವಾದ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಮೇಲ್ಪಂಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಲಭಿಸಿದ

ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಯೂ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳಲ್ಲೊಂದು. ಅದರ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯು ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲುವುದಾಗಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಏಳಿಗೆಗಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಬಹಳವಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದರು; ಅದರ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ “ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ” ವೆಂಬ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಸಂಪಾದಕರಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆಗೆ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ವರ್ಷವರ್ಷವೂ ಬಹು ಮುಖವಾಗಿ ವೃದ್ಧಿಹೊಂದುತ್ತಿದೆ; ಅದರ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯು ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಪುರೋಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಸಾಧನೆಯು ಚಿರಕಾಲ ಮುಂದುವರಿದು, ಇಡೀ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯು ಮೊಳಗುವಂತಾಗಲೆಂದು ನಾನು ಭಗವಂತನನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ತಾಯಿಯ ಹಿರಿಮೆಯೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ!

ಸಿ. ಕೆ. ವೆಂಕಟರಾಮಯ್ಯ

♦ ♦ ♦

MY CENTRAL COLLEGE

I TOOK LEAVE OF MY ALMA MATER, THE Central College, Bangalore, with her blessings in the year 1929 and stepped out into the world “heart within and God overhead”. With Physics and Chemistry as my Optionals and English and Kannada as my Compulsories, I had the run of the “Theatres” for full three years.

I recall to my mind my Professors who set an example to most of us in manners as well as in studies—more in manners than in studies, I should say. I do not

know which of these two ingredients predominates now in the Central College, whether manners or studies or both. But we were happy that we were first taught in our days how to behave and then came the question of how to pass.

Dr. Metcalfe, Professor B. Venkateshachar, Professor A. Venkat Rao Telang, Professor C. K. Sundarachar, Professor M. G. Srinivasa Rao, Professor B. Sanjiva Rao, Professor B. L. Manjunath, Professor C. Srikantiah, Professor F. R. Sell, Professor E. G. McAlpine, Professor

T. S. Venkanniah and Professor A. R. Krishna Sastry—all held out a sense of discipline which inspired in us respect to constituted authority and devotion to duty. There were also our Assistant Professors and Lecturers, who taught us to be good students.

We were particularly happy that under the ægis of the Karnataka Sangha, all our Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers offered guidance to the students in literary habits, while “Prabuddha Karnataka”, the Quarterly Kannada Journal, afforded much “Sweetness and Light”.

The Maharaja’s College, Mysore, always held up a challenge to us in matters literary and I must say with legitimate pride that the Central College won in almost every debate either in English or in Kannada. With confidence in myself and devotion to my Alma Mater, twice I represented the Central College in the Inter-Collegiate Debates held at Mysore, the first in English with Shri M. N. Ramaswamy as partner and the second in Kannada with Shri Mohamed Ali as partner.

There was another challenge to our literary merit from the same quarter in Kannada Poetic Composition. Under the inspiration of Professor B. M. Srikantiah, the Maharaja’s College had collected some of the votaries to the Kannada Muse and published their first collection of juvenile poetry “ಕಿರಿಯ ಕಾಣಿಕೆ”. Shri K. V. Puttappa, Shri T. N. Srikantiah, Shri L. Gundappa and Shri A. K. Puttaramu were some of the new writers who had found their friend, philosopher and guide in the Professor. Here in the Central College, I was the only solitary figure and it was

not till I read a poem in Kannada dedicated to my Alma Mater (*Viswa Vidya Mathru Mandirakke*) in 1929 at a farewell function to the senior students that I was ever noticed, although I was in the line since 1925. I set forth below this model poem which every student of the Central College would like to note :

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾ ಮಾತೃ ಮಂದಿರಕ್ಕೆ

ಮನ್ನಣೆಯಿಂ ಬಾಳೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ತಾಯೆ !
ಸನ್ನತೆ, ವಿದ್ಯಾಮಾನಿನಿ, ಮಾಯೆ ||ಪ||

೧

ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಜಯ ಜನನಿ,
ಗಣಿತವ ಗಣಿಸುವ ವಿಜಯಮಣಿ,
ರಸವರ್ಗದ ಪೊಸ ಪೊಂಭರಣಿ,
ಸಸ್ಯ, ಶಿಲಾ, ಖಗ, ಮೃಗದ ಗಣಿ—
—ಮಂಜುಳ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಸಿರಿ ನೀನು !
ಅಣು ರೇಣುಗಳಲಿ ನೆಲಸಿರುವೆ !

೨

ಕೆಂಪಿನ ವಸನವ ನೀನುಟ್ಟು,
ಗೋಪುರದಾಭರಣವ ತೊಟ್ಟು,
ಸೊಂಪಿನ ಸಿಸುಗಳಿಗೆದೆಗೊಟ್ಟು,
ತಂಪಿನ ಶಾಂತಿಯ ಸುಧೆಯಿತ್ತು—
—ನಗರದ ನಾಲ್ದಿ ಸೆಗೆಸೆದಿಹ ಜನನೀ !
ನಗುನಗು ನಾಕದ ನವತರುಣಿ !

೩

ಗುರುಜನರೊಳು ನೆರೆ ನಲಿದಾಡಿ,
ಸರಸದೊಳೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ಬಳಿಯಾಡಿ,
ನಿರುತದಿ ಮನದೊಳು ಸುಳಿದಾಡಿ,
ವರ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೆಳೆಮಾಡಿ,—
—ಲೋಕವನಾಳುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯು ನೀನು
ಶ್ರೀಕರ ಭಾವದೊಳೊಪ್ಪುತಿಹೆ !

೪

ಬೆಳೆವೆವು ಸಾಹಸ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಲಿ,
ನಲಿವೆವು ನಿನ್ನಯ ನೋಹಿಯಲಿ,
ನಿಲುವೆವು ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನಲಿ,
ಗಳಿಸಿದ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯಲಿ,—
—ಮೂಡಲ ಪಡುವಲ ಬಟ್ಟೆಯ ಬೆಳಕೇ!
ರೂಢಿಯೊಳೆಲ್ಲೆ ಡೆ ಚಲಿಸುತಿಹೆ !

೫

ನಮ್ಮಯ ವಿದ್ಯೆಗೆ ನೆಲೆಯಾದೆ,
ನಮ್ಮಯ ಬುದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಗಣಿಯಾದೆ,
ನಮ್ಮಯ ನಾಡಿಗೆ ಸಿರಿಯಾದೆ,
ನಮ್ಮಯ ಮುಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಮಣಿಯಾದೆ—
—ಉಲಿಯುವೆ, ಒಲಿಯುವೆ, ನಲಿಯುವೆ ಮಾತೆ,
ಚೆಲುವಿನ ಬಾಳಿನ ಸುಪ್ರೀತೆ !

It may be mentioned that I got a prize for my poem 'Kumbara' in the year 1928 at a Conference of "Student Poets" in Kannada held in the Central College with Shri K. V. Puttappa in the Chair.

Even after a lapse of nearly 30 years, the noble structure of the Central College with the Watch Tower has been inspiring in us a deep regard for our Alma Mater since she roused in us a sense of patriotism to India, our Mother Land. In 1920, the Gandhian Movement was spreading throughout the country and there were strikes in which the students took part. Though the students suffered in their studies, yet it helped in the general awakening of the masses who realised at once that there was something wrong

somewhere. The students, the more sober of them, had, for the first time, the painful feeling that India was a subordinate country under the British. We hardly knew what an independent country would be like. Yet, the feeling that we must become an independent nation got hold of us in diverse ways. The students began to appreciate the sacrifice and suffering of the elders in leading their country to the cherished goal of "Swarajya" and we know how within the course of 27 years that followed, our country became free, thanks to the British for their noble example in parting with power as friends. This feeling of patriotism will ever be reflected in the face of my Alma Mater.

So, with patriotism and discipline, with good manners and sustained effort, the students of the Central College have held aloft the fair name of their Alma Mater all these years. They have successfully passed every competitive examination and efficiently conducted themselves as administrators with high responsibility. In this scientific era, every student of the Central College would recognise with satisfaction that what was once considered a "Test Tube" College, is now a "Veteran" College of scientific truth. It is the firm conviction and belief of all of us, the alumni of the Central College, that our Alma Mater will never know any suffering or distress and that she will ever inspire hope and joy among her votaries. *Namaste, my Alma Mater, Namaste !*

D. R. RAMAYA

◆ ◆ ◆

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ನನ್ನ ಕಾಲೇಜು. ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಮಹಾರಾಜಾ ಕಾಲೇಜ್-ಅದೂ ನನ್ನ ಕಾಲೇಜೆ. ನಾನು ಎರಡು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕಲಿತು ಬೆಳೆದವನು. ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ನನಗೆ ತಂದೆ ಯಂತಾದರೆ, ಮಹಾರಾಜಾ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ನನಗೆ ತಾಯಿ.

ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ನಾನು ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚೆ, ನನ್ನ ಅಣ್ಣ ದಿವಂಗತ ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಪಿ. ಗೋವಿಂದರಾಜ ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣಿತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ., ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರಿಂದ ನನಗೆ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯುಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಕಾರಣ—ಅವರು ತರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ 'ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ'ದ ಸಂಚಿಕೆಯೊಳಗಿನ 'ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗದ ಬೆಟ್ಟ' ಮೊದಲಾದ ಲೇಖನಗಳು, 'ಬೊಳ್ಳುಗಟ್ಟಿ' ಮುಂತಾದವು ಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರಿತ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆಗಳು; ಎರಡನೆಯ ಕಾರಣ—ಅವರ ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ನೋಟ್ ಬುಕ್ಗಳು: ಚೊಕ್ಕಟವಾಗಿ ಬರೆದ ರೆಕಾರ್ಡ್, ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಮುತ್ತುಪೋಣಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಅಕ್ಷರ, ಪ್ರಿಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಹಾಗೆ ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಇಂಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆದ ಡಯಾಗ್ರಾಮ್, ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೊ. ಎ. ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ಟಿಲಾಂಗರು ಮಾಡಿದ ರುಜು, ಕೊಟ್ಟ ತುಂಬುಸಂಬರು. 'ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ'ವನ್ನೂ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ರೆಕಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನೂ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತ ನನ್ನ ಅಣ್ಣ ಆಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಾತುಗಳ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ನನಗೆ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಎಂದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ಟಿಲಾಂಗರು ಎಂದು ಈಕ್ವೇಟ್ ಆಗಿಹೋಗಿತ್ತು.

ಇಂತಹ ಪೂರ್ವಸಿದ್ಧತೆಯಿಂದ ನಾನು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ೧೯೨೬ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಸೇರಿದೆ. ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ ಇದ್ದು ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗಬೇಕೆಂದು

ಬಂದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಅಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಲಿಲ್ಲ; ಇನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷವಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದುಹೋಗು ಎಂದು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಿಂದ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತು. ೧೯೨೯ರಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಮೈಸೂರಿಗೆ ಕಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿತು. ನನ್ನ ಅಣ್ಣನ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಾನೂ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ., ಆಗ ಬೇಕೆಂದು, ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ., ಆಗಬೇಕೆಂದು ಇಷ್ಟ ಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೆ. ಆ ಇಷ್ಟ ಈಡೇರದೆ ಹೋದರೂ ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಿ.ಎ., ಆದದ್ದಾದರೂ ನನಗೆ ಅನಿಷ್ಟವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅನಿಷ್ಟವಾಗದೆ ಇದ್ದ ಈ ಬಿ.ಎ., ಇಂದಲೇ ಮುಂದೆ ಎಂ.ಎ.,ಗೆ ಓದಿ ನನ್ನ ಅನೇಕ ಇಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯ ವಾಯಿತು.

ಆ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ, ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಎನ್‌ಟ್ರೆನ್ಸ್ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡಮೇಲೆ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ ಡಿಗ್ರಿಗೆ ಓದಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸೇರಿ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಗ್ರಾಫು; ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್, ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ, ಮ್ಯಾಥಮ್ಯಾಟಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮೂರು ಸೇರಿ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಗ್ರಾಫು. ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಗಿದ ಮೇಲೆ, ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಆಪ್ಸನಲ್ ಬಿಡಬಹುದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸೈನ್ಸಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ನನಗೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ಇದ್ದಷ್ಟು ಸೈನ್ಸಿಗೆ ನನ್ನಮೇಲೆ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದು ನನಗೆ ಮೊದಲ ನೆಯ ವರ್ಷದ ಮೊದಲಿನ ಆರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿ ಹೋಯಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಹಿಮ್ಮೆಟ್ಟುವ ಹಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಬಂದದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಬಲವಂತವಾಗಿ ಪಟ್ಟುಹಿಡಿದು ನೋಡಿಯೇ ಬಿಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹಠ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಮೂರರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಆಪ್ಸನಲ್‌ನ್ನು ಎರಡನೆಯ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡಬಹುದಲ್ಲಾ ಎಂಬ ಒಂದು ಸಮಾಧಾನ. ಯಾವುದನ್ನು ಬಿಡಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಯೋಚನೆಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿಯೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. 'ನಾನು ನಿನ್ನ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಬಂದರಲ್ಲವೇ ನೀನು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಬಿಡುವುದು!' ಎಂದು ಗಣಿತ ಹಂಗಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಅನಕಾಶ ಇದ್ದಿದ್ದರೆ ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯನ್ನೂ ಹಾಗೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಒಂದುಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ತುಂಬ ಪ್ರಿಯ ವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಷಯ ಎಷ್ಟು ಕಾರಣವೋ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರೂ ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಕಾರಣ ವಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗೆ ಓದಿದ್ದಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಬಲವಂತದ ಮಾಘಸಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಳಿ, ನೆಗಡಿ ಆಗದ ಹಾಗೆ ಕಾವು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕಾಪಾಡಿದ್ದು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ.

ನಾನು ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.,ಗಾಗಿ ಬಯಸಿದವನು, ಬಿ.ಎ., ಮುಗಿದರೂ ಸಾಕು ಎಂದು ನಿಂತವನು. ೧೯೨೮ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ನನ್ನ ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ಮುಗಿದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಈಗ ಏನಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆಯೋ ಅದು ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆನೋ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ. ನಾನು ಹೆದರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ—ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟಿಕ್ಸ್—ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕ್ವಾಲಿಟಿಟಿವ್—ಕಡೆಗೂ ಕೈ ಕೊಟ್ಟೇಬಿಟ್ಟಿತು. ಮೊದಲನೇ ಗ್ರಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆಕಂಡ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ ಬಂದರೂ, ಎರಡನೇ ಗ್ರಾಸ್ ಥುಂಕಿ. ಮುಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಏನು ಮಾಡುವುದೋ ದಿಕ್ಕುತೋಚದು, ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಿಲ್ಲ. ಪುಣ್ಯಾತ್ಮರು ಯಾರೋ ಓದಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದರು, ಪುನಃ ೧೯೨೯ರಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಗ್ರಾಸಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡೆ.

೧೯೨೮ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ. ಎಸ್. ವೆಂಕಣಯ್ಯನವರು ಮೈಸೂರಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗವಾಗಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದರು. ಅವರು ನಡೆಸಿದ 'ಗದಾಯುದ್ಧ' ಪಾಠದಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯ ಕನ್ನಡಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾರಿಹೋಗಿತ್ತು. ೧೯೨೯ ರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇ ಗ್ರಾಸ್ ಇದ್ದು, ಉಳಿದ ವೇಳೆ ವಿರಾಮ ಇದ್ದದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯೂ ಕಡಮೆ ಇದ್ದದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಓದಬೇಕಾ ಗಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಹೋದರೂ, ಎಲ್ಲ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕ್ಲಾಸುಗಳಿಗೂ ಹಾಜ ರಾಗಿ ಇರಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ದೊರಕಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಲಾಭವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಹಂಬಲವನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯಮಾಡಿ, ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಕೂಡ ತಮ್ಮ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಕುಳಿತು ಕಲಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಮತಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಮುಂದೆ

ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಎಂ.ಎ.,ಗೆ ಓದಬೇಕೆಂದು ಲವ ಲವಿಕೆ ಉಂಟಾದದ್ದು ಆಗಲೇ.

ಈ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಮೊದಲೇ 'ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘ', 'ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ' ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದೆ ನಾದರೂ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದ ಮೊದಲಿನ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷ ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯನಾಗಿ ದೂರನಿಂತಿದ್ದೆನೇ ಹೊರತು, ಅದರ ಚಟು ವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸತ್ತ್ವವಾಗಲಿ, ಧೈರ್ಯವಾಗಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಬರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮೂರನೆಯ ವರ್ಷದ ವೇಳೆಗೆ, ಕಲಬುರ್ಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘವು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದ 'ಕಿರಿಯ ಕಾಣಿಕೆ', 'ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ'ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ವಿ. ಪುಟ್ಟಪ್ಪನವರ 'ಯಮನ ಸೋಲು', 'ಶ್ರೀ' ಅವರ 'ಗದಾಯುದ್ಧ ನಾಟಕಂ' ಅಭಿನಯ, ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ನನಗೂ ಏನೋ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರುಕಬೇಕೆಂದು ಒಳಗೊಳಗೇ ತಿವಿಯಿತು. ಅದರಂತೆ ಪದ್ಯ ಗದ್ಯ ಬರೆದೆ. ಅದೇ ವರ್ಷ ನಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತಮೊದಲನೆಯ "ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಕವಿ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ" ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಸ್ವಾಗತ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಸದಸ್ಯನಾಗಿ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಕವಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ತುಂಬ ಮುಖೇಡಿತನ. ಆ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸೀತಾರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರು ಹೊಸಗನ್ನಡ ಕವಿತೆಗಳ ವಾಚನವನ್ನು ಡಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ಟ್ ಆಫೀಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಮೇಲು ಗಡಿಯ ರೂಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತಲಾ ನಾಲ್ಕಾಣೆ ಚಂದಾ ಹಾಕುವುದು, ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದ ಹಣ್ಣುಹಂಪಲು ತಿನ್ನುವುದು, ಕಾಫಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವುದು, ಅನಂತರ ಕಾವ್ಯವಾಚನ. ಈ ಕೂಟಗಳಿಗೆ ನಾನೂ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ಸುಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಓದುವುದು ಹೇಗೆಂದು ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸೀ. ಕಲಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಸುಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಪದ್ಯ ಬರೆಯುವುದು ಹೇಗೆಂದು ಕಲಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟದ್ದು 'ಶ್ರೀ' ಅವರ 'ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಗೀತೆಗಳು' ಮತ್ತು 'ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ'ರ "ಅರುಣ". ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳಿಂದ ನನಗೆ ಆದ ಸಂಸ್ಕಾರ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿ, ನಾಲ್ಕನೆಯ ವರ್ಷ ನಾನು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ತರಗತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಪ್ಪಣೆ ಪಡೆದು ಹಾಜರಾದದ್ದು ದೈವದ ಕರುಣೆ. ಆ ವರ್ಷ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದ

ಎರಡನೇ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಕೂಡ ಸೆಕಂಡ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಸಾಯಿತು ; ಮುಂದೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಎಂ.ಎ.,ಗೆ ಓದುವುದಾಯಿತು ; ಬಿ.ಎ., ನಾಲ್ಕನೆಯ ವರ್ಷ ಓದಿಸಿದ ಪುಣ್ಯವಂತರೇ ಮುಂದೆ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷ ಎಂ.ಎ.,ಗೂ ಓದಿಸಿದರು. ಹಿರಿಯರ ಹರಕೆಯಿಂದ ಈಗ ಸದ್ಯೆ ಹೀಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

೧೯೨೯ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ತಿರುಗಿ ಕೈ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಬಿಟ್ಟೆತ್ತು. ಅದೇ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟಿಕಲ್, ಅದೇ ಕ್ವಾಲಿಟಿಟಿವ್. ಏನೋ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ, ಏನೋ ಎಲಿಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಸಿಕ್ಕುತ್ತಿವೆ,—ಒಬ್ಬರು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಕರು ಬಂದರು, ಪೌಡರ್ ನಂಬರ್ ಏನು ಅಂದರು, ಇದು ಅಂದೆ, ಬರೆದದ್ದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರು, ಹುಂ ಹುಂ ಎಂದು ತಲೆ ಕೊಡವಿದರು, ಇನಿಸಿಯಲ್ ಹಾಕಿ ಹೋದರು. ಅವರು ಹಾಗೆಂದಾಗಲೇ ನನಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಗತಿ ಮುಗಿಯಿತು ಎಂದು ನಖಶಿಖಾಂತವಾಗಿ ಬೆವರಿನ ಅಭಿಷೇಕವಾಯಿತು ! ಅತ್ಯಂತ ನೈರಾಶ್ಯದಿಂದ ಉತ್ತರ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ, ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದದ್ದನ್ನು ಆರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು, ಹೊರಟೆ. ಪುನಃ, ನನ್ನ ಅದೃಷ್ಟ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಿತು. ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಕರು ಬಂದರು, “ಮುಗಿಯಿತೆ? ಇಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ? ಇನ್ನೂ ಹದಿನೈದು ನಿಮಿಷ ಇದೆ! ಎಲ್ಲಿ, ಪೌಡರ್ ನಂಬರ್ ? ಹುಂ ಹುಂ !” ಎಂದರು, ನಾನು ಬರೆದಿದ್ದ ಒಂದು ಪಂಕ್ತಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆರಳಿಟ್ಟು, ಎರಡು ಸಲ ಟಕ ಟಕ ಕುಟ್ಟಿದರು. ತಟ ಕ್ಕನೆ ನನಗೆ ಹೊಳೆಯಿತು—ಇನ್ ಫರೆನ್ಸ್ ತಪ್ಪು ! ಏನು ಮಾಡುವುದೆಂದು ಮುಖ ನೋಡಿದೆ, ವೇಳೆ ಇದೆಯೆ ಎಂದು ಗಡಿಯಾರ ನೋಡಿದೆ. ಉತ್ತರ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಒಂದು ಹೊಸ ಹಾಳೆ ತಿರುವಿದರು. ಅಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಗೊಣಗಿದರು. ಕಿವಿಗೆ ಏನೋ ಹೊಳೆದಹಾಗಾಯಿತು. ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೆಸ್ ವೇಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪುನಃ ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಪರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿ, ಎರಡು ಎಲಿಮೆಂಟುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಡಿದುಹಾಕಿ, ಸುತ್ತ ನೋಡಿದೆ. ಅವರು ಕಾಣಲಿಲ್ಲ. ದೇವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಭಾರ ಹಾಕಿ ಹೊರಗೆ ಬಂದೆ. ಅವರ ರೂಮಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ, ಅವರನ್ನು ವಂದಿಸಿದೆ. ಅವರಂದರು—‘ಇದಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲ ಏನು ವಂದನೆ. ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲ ಆದರೂ ನೀವು ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತ ಸೈನ್ಸನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸೋದು ಅಷ್ಟ ರಲ್ಲೇ ಇದೆ. ಹೋಗಿಬನ್ನಿ. ಒಳ್ಳೇದಾಗಲಿ.’ ಅವರ ಆ ಟಕಟಕದಿಂದಲೇ ನನಗೆ ಆ ವರ್ಷ ಪಾಸಾಯಿತೆಂದು

ಈ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೂ ನಾನು ನಂಬಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಸತ್ಯ, ನ್ಯಾಯ, ಧರ್ಮ ಎಂದು ಮಾತು ಬಂದಾಗಲೆಲ್ಲ ನನಗೆ ಅರ್ಜುನ ಧರ್ಮರಾಯನನ್ನು ಕೊಂದುಬಿಡುತ್ತೇನೆಂದು ನುಗ್ಗಿದಾಗ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಹೇಳಿದ ಧರ್ಮಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಜ್ಞಾಪಕ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ; ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ತಪ್ಪುಮಾಡಿ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದವನನ್ನು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಿ ಮುಂದೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಈ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಕರ ನಡತೆಯೂ ಜ್ಞಾಪಕ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ನಮನ.

ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷವೂ ಕಾಲೇಜು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತುಂಬ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಿಂದ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತು. ಒಬ್ಬರಿಬ್ಬರು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗಿಂತ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ., ಮೇಲೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತ ತೋರಿ ಚುಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಮಿಕ್ಕವರ ಆದರಪೂರ್ವಕವಾದ ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ನೋವು ಸಹ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಒಂದು ಸಲ ಮಾತ್ರ, ಯಾರದೋ ಅವಿಚಾರದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಮಾದವಾಗಿ ಹೋಯಿತು. ಆ ವರ್ಷ ಸರ್ ಜಗದೀಶಚಂದ್ರ ಬೋಸ್ ಅವರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು. ಇಂಟರ್ ಮೀಡಿಯೆಟ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ಹಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಭಾಷಣ. ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.,ಯವರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಪಾಸ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರವೇಶ. ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗಳು ನಾವೂ ಹೋದೆವು. ‘ನಿಮಗೆ ಪಾಸಿಲ್ಲ, ಇದೆಲ್ಲಾ ನಿಮಗೆ ಅರ್ಥವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಷ್ಟು ಜನಕ್ಕೆ ಜಾಗ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಂದಿಸುವುದು ?’ ಎಂದರು. ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದವರು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರು ಆಗಿರುವಾಗ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಹೊರಗೆ ಹಾಕಿದರು ಎಂದು ನಮಗೆ ಆಸಮಾಧಾನ. ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಹೇಳಬಂದ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಮಾತಿಗೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, ಗಲಾಟೆಮಾಡದೆ, ನಾವು ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗಳು ಹೊರಗೆಬಂದೆವು. ಆ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷವೂ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಡೇ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆ ನಡಾವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀವ ತುಂಬುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ಬಹು ಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರಾದ ಬಿ.ಎ.,ಗಳಿಂದಲೇ. ‘ಬೋಸರಂಥವರ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಡವಾದ ನಾವು ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಡೇಗೂ ಬೇಡ’ ಎಂದು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆವು. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರಿಗೂ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆವು. ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಮೆಟ್ ಕಾಫ್ ಪ್ರತಿ ತರಗತಿಗೂ ತಾನೇ ಬಂದರು. ಪ್ರಮಾದವಾಯಿತೆಂದರು, ಪಶ್ಚಾತ್ತಾಪ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರು, ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತ ಉದ್ದೇಶಪೂರ್ವಕವಾದದ್ದಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದರು, ಬಿ.ಎ., ಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ

ಕಾಲೇಜು ಎಂತಹ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಎಂದರು. ಪ್ರೀತಿಸಾತ್ಮ ರಾದ ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರು ಪ್ರತಿ ತರಗತಿಗೂ ಹೀಗೆ ಬಂದು ವಿಷಾದವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಕಾರಣರಾದೆ ವಲ್ಲಾ ಎಂದು ನಮಗೇ ನಾಚಿಕೆಯಾಯಿತು. ಅವರ ಕ್ಷಮಾಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಂಡೆವು. ಎಂದಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಡೇ ಸಮಾರಂಭವನ್ನು ನೇರಿ ನಡಸಿದೆವು.

ಆಗಿನ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಡೇಗಳೆಂದರೆ ಅದು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅಂತಸ್ಸತ್ತ್ವದ ದರ್ಶನ. ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು, ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಗಳು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಎಂಬ ಭಿನ್ನಭಾವಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆತು ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದೇ ದೇಹದ ಅಂಗಪ್ರತ್ಯಂಗಗಳಂತೆ ಏಕೀಭವಿಸಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನಡೆಯು ತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅಂದಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ವಾದ್ಯಮೇಳಗಳೇನು, ಹಾಡುಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳೇನು, ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳೇನು! ಅಷ್ಟೇಅಲ್ಲ, ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯವಾದ ವ್ಯಾಯಾಮದಿಂದ ಶರೀರದ ಪಟುತ್ವವನ್ನು ಸಂವರ್ಧಿಸಿಕೊಂಡವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಕ್ಷೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಲಿಫ್ಟಿಂಗ್, ಬಾರ್ ಬೆಂಡಿಂಗ್, ಮಸಲ್ ಕಂಟ್ರೋಲ್, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ! ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತದ್ದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ತಾವು ಸ್ವಂತವಾಗಿ ಕಲಿತದ್ದು ಏನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅದನ್ನೂ ತೋರ್ಪಡಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಡೇ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆಗ ಆಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಾಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಷೇಕ್ಸ್‌ಪಿಯರನ 'ಜೂಲಿಯಸ್ ಸೀಸರ್' ಮತ್ತು ಹರೀಂದ್ರನಾಥ ಚಟ್ಟೋಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರ 'ರಿಟ ರ್‌ನ್ಡ್ ಫ್ರಾಮ್ ಎಬ್ರಾಡ್' ಇವು ಎರಡು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ನನಗೆ ನೆನಪಿದೆ. ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ಇವೆರಡರಲ್ಲೂ ನನಗೂ ಪಾತ್ರ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿತ್ತು. ಮೊದಲನೆಯದನ್ನು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ಶ್ರೀ ಮೆಕಾಲ್ವೈನ್; ಎರಡನೆಯದನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದರು. ಹರೀಂದ್ರರ ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಪಾತ್ರ—ಕ್ಷಯರೋಗ ದಿಂದ ನವೆದುಹೋಗಿದ್ದ ಯುವತಿಯದು! ಆದರೆ ಮಂಚದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಲಗಿಯೇ ಮಾತನಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಆ ಕ್ಷಯದ ಯುವತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರದವನ ಗಾತ್ರ ಗೊತ್ತಾ ಗಲಿಲ್ಲ! ಧ್ವನಿಯೋ ನಟನ!

ಅಷ್ಟು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದುದನ್ನು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಜ್ಞಾಪಕಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಗುವ ವಿಷಯಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟು ಮುಖ್ಯವೋ ಅವಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಾದವರು ಅಂದು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡಸಿ ಕೊಂಡು ಹೋದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ಮಹನೀಯರು. ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವರನ್ನು ಈ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೂ ಜ್ಞಾಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಅವರ ರೂಪು ಚರ್ಮ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟುತ್ತದೆ, ಅವರ ಧ್ವನಿ ಕಿವಿಗೆ ಕೇಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ನನಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪರಿಚಯ ಆದದ್ದು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರುಗಳು. ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ ಕೊಂಚ ಮಾತ್ರ; ಗಣಿತ ಅದಕ್ಕೂ ಕಡಮೆ.

ಪಾಠದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಗಣಿತದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರುಗಳ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೇ ಆದರೂ, ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪಾಠ ಗಳೂ ಸಂಧ್ಯಾಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳೂ ಬಹುವಾಗಿ ಗಣಿತಭವನದಲ್ಲೇ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದುವಾದ್ದ ರಿಂದ, ಆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರುಗಳ ಮುಖಪರಿಚಯವೂ ಅವರ ನಡವಳಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ನಡವಳಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಕಾರವೂ ಸಹಜವಾಗಿಯೇ ಆಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ನಮಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿದವರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ನಾನು ಮರೆಯುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಅದೇ ಆಗತಾನೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡಿನಿಂದ ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು—ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಕೆ. ಎಸ್. ಕೆ. ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್. ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಎತ್ತರ, ಬೆತ್ತದ ಬಳ್ಳಿಯಂತೆ ತೆಳ್ಳನೆ ಮೈ, ಕವುಬಣ್ಣದ ಕೋಟು, ಷರಾಯಿ, ಬೂಟ್ಟು, ಕಾಂತಿ ಯಿಂದ ತುಂಬಿದ ಮುಖ. ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಕ್ಲಾಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನ ಬಲಗಡೆ ತುದಿಯಿಂದ ಎಡಗಡೆಯ ತುದಿಯ ವರೆಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಸ್ವೀಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾವಿನಹಾಗೆ ಒಂದು N ಬರೆದು, ತಲೆಯ ಹತ್ತಿರ 'x' ಹಾಕಿದರು, ಬಾಲದ ಹತ್ತಿರ 'y' ಹಾಕಿದರು; 'ಡಿಎಕ್ಸ್ ಬೈ ಡಿವೈ' ಎಂದರು. ಗಣಿತವೆಂದರೆ ಮೊದಲೇ ಹೆದರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಾನು ಇದರಿಂದ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಹೆದರಿದೆನಾದರೂ, ಆ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕ ಸಲ "ಈ ಮೇಷ್ಟರು ಇನ್ನು ಯಾವುದರಲ್ಲಾದರೂ ಪಂಡಿತ ರಾಗಿ ನಮಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡಬಾರದಾಗಿತ್ತಿ" ಎನ್ನಿಸು ತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಎರಡನೆಯ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಅವರ ಪಾಠ

ನನಗಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಹೋಯಿತಾದರೂ, ಅವರು ನನಗೆ ಈ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿಸಿದ ಗುರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಾನು ಮರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರು ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಜಿ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರಾಯರೇ ಮೊದಲಾದವರಾದರೂ, ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ನನ್ನ ಜ್ಞಾಪಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತವರು ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶೇಷಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ಯರು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರು ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟು ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಕಾರಣವಲ್ಲ; ಪಾಠಗಳನ್ನು ನಾವು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಓದಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರೇರಕವಾಗಿ ಅವರು ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಕೇಳಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಹಿಂಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ಕಾರಣ. 'You will never get out of this College until you begin to answer my questions' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಕಚ್ಚಿ ಕಚ್ಚಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಕಿವಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿದಂತಿದೆ.

ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಆಪ್ತನಲ್ ಆದ ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಕ, ಒಬ್ಬೊಬ್ಬರು ಒಂದೊಂದು ವಿಶೇಷಗುಣದಿಂದ ನನಗೆ ಪೂಜಾರ್ಹರಾದರು. ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶಾಚಾರ್ಯರು, ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಲ್ ಮೆಟ್ಯಾಥರು, ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ಟಿಲಾಂಗರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಕೆ. ಸುಂದರಾಚಾರ್ಯರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರಾಯರು-ಇವರುಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ತಮ್ಮ ನಿಲವಿನಿಂದ, ನಿಷ್ಠೆಯಿಂದ, ಶಾಂತತೆಯಿಂದ, ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟತೆಯಿಂದ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯದಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಇದ್ದ ವರ್ಷಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆಯದಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಅವರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿಲಾಂಗರು ತಮ್ಮ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕವಾದ ಋಜುತೆಯಿಂದ, ಸುಂದರಾಚಾರ್ಯರು ರೊವರ್‌ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್ ಆಗಿ ಜೊತೆಗಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರಾಯರು ನಾಟಕದ ರಿಹರ್ಸಲ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಡಬೆರೆತು ನನ್ನಂತೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಿಯರಾದರು.

ಇವರಂತೆಯೇ ನಮಗೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷನ್ನು ಕಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರಾದರೂ. ಷೇಕ್ಸ್‌ಪಿಯರನ ಒಥೆಲೊ ನಾಟಕವನ್ನೂ Our Hellenic Heritage ಪುಸ್ತಕವನ್ನೂ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿ, ರುದ್ರನಾಟಕದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದವರು, ಶ್ರೀ ಮೆಕಾಲ್ವೈನರು; ಅವರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನೋಟ್ಸ್ ಎಲ್ಲ ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿಯವರು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು

ತ್ತಿದ್ದುದೆಂದು ಪ್ರತೀತಿ; ಗುರುವೇನು, ಗುರುಪತ್ನಿಯೇನು ಎಂದು ನಾವೂ ಕಲಿತೆವು. ನಗುನಗುತ್ತ, ನಗಿಸುತ್ತ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕಲಿಸಿದರು ಶ್ರೀ ಸೆಲ್. ವರ್ಡ್ಸ್‌ವರ್ತ್ ಕೀಟ್ಸ್ ಕೋಲ್‌ರಿಡ್ಜ್ ಪಾಠಮಾಡುವಾಗ ಭಾವೋದ್ರೇಕದಿಂದ ಬಾಯಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿಹೋಗಿ ಧಾರಾಕಾರವಾದ ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರಗಿಹೋಗುವರು ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ನಾಗೇಶರಾಯರು. ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ಎಸ್. ಅಣ್ಣಾಜಿರಾಯರು ಗಾಲ್ಫ್‌ವರ್ತಿ ನಾಟಕ ಮಾಡಿದರು; ಅವರು I mean, I mean ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರೂಢಿಯಿಂದ, ಅವರ ಲೆಕ್ಚರನ್ನು ನಾವು ಲಾಂಗ್‌ಹ್ಯಾಂಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಕುಬ್ಲಾ ಖಾನ್ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳುವಾಗ ರುಮಾಲು ತೆಗೆದ ತಮ್ಮ ಬೊಕ್ಕತಲೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ದೇವನಾಥಾಚಾರ್ಯರು ತಾಳೆ ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನಾಗಲಿ, ಮಾತುಮಾತಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು 'ತೊಡಪಕಟ್ಟಿ' ಎಂದು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಸಂಬೋಧಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನಾಗಲಿ—ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಮರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

(ಇಲ್ಲಿ, ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಒಂದು ಸಂಗತಿ ಹೇಳಬೇಕು. ನನ್ನ ಪೂರ್ವಿ ಹೆಸರು—ಜಿ. ಪಿ. ರಾಜರತ್ನಂ ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್, ಹಾಗೆಂದೇ ನಾನು ಯೂನಿವರ್ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಆಗಿರುವುದು. ಆದರೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮೆಕಾಲ್ವೈನ್ ಅವರು ಅಟೆಂಡೆನ್ಸ್ ಕರೆಯುವಾಗ, ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿನ ಉದ್ದ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತೊಂದರೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟದ್ದರಿಂದ, ನನ್ನನ್ನು 'ಆಗ ಬಹುದೇ?' ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿ, ನನ್ನ 'ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್'ಗೆ ಕತ್ತರಿ ಹಾಕಿದರು. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದ ನಾನು ಬಚ್ಚುಬರಿಯ ಜಿ. ಪಿ. ರಾಜರತ್ನಂ ಆಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ.)

ಶ್ರೀ ಮೆಕಾಲ್ವೈನರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಸಂಗತಿ ತಿಳಿಸಬೇಕು. ಏನೆಂದರೆ—ಆಗ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಂಶದ ಮೊದಲು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಇತ್ತು. ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ಶ್ಲೋಕಗಳು. ನಾವು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮುಗಿಸಿರಲೆಂದು ಶ್ರೀ ಮೆಕಾಲ್ವೈನರು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತಡವಾಗಿ ಬರುವರು. ಬಾಟನಿ ಹಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಕ್ಲಾಸು. ಅವರು ಬರುವವರೆಗೂ ಸುಮ್ಮನಿದ್ದು, ಅವರು ಬರುವ ಸುಳಿವು ತಿಳಿದಕೂಡಲೆ, ಅತ್ಯಂತವಾದ ಭಗವದ್ಭಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದಲೋ ಎಂಬಂತೆ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ಕೀಟಲೆಗೆ! ಅವರು

ಓಂದು, ಹೊರಗಡೆ ವೆರಾಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು, ನಮ್ಮದು ಮುಗಿಯುವವರೆಗು! ಒಮ್ಮೆಯಾದರೂ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಗದರಿಸಿದವರಲ್ಲ. ಕೆಲವು ದಿವಸಗಳು ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಯಾದಮೇಲೆ, 'ಸಾಧುಗಳನ್ನು ಸತಾಯಿಸ ಬಾರದು' ಎಂದು, ಅವರು ಬರುವುದರೊಳಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು.

'ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ' ಎಂದೊಡನೆ, ನಮಗೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಪ್ರಾತಃಕಾಲವೂ ರೂಢಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ "ಸುಪ್ರಭಾತಂ ಭಗವತಃ" ಎಂಬುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ವಾರಕ್ಕೊಮ್ಮೆಯಾದರೂ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿ ಕೇಳಿ ಕಿವಿಪಾಠವಾಗಿದ್ದ "ವನಸುಮದೊಲೆನ್ನು" ಎಂಬ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ ವಿ ಜಿ ಅವರ ಹಾಡೂ ಜ್ಞಾಪಕವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಹಾಡು ಹಿಡಿದಿತ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಹಿರಿಯ ಆದರ್ಶ ನಮಗೆ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ದಾರಿಯ ದೀಪವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಎಲ್ಲಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೊದಲಾಗಿ, ಮೇಲಾಗಿ ನಮಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕಲಿಸಿದವರು: ಶ್ರೀ ವೆಂಕಣ್ಣಯ್ಯನವರು—ನೇರವಾದ ಎತ್ತರದ ನಿಲವಿನವರಾಗಿ, ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯವರಾಗಿ, ತುಂಟರು ಕೂಡ ತೆಪ್ಪಾಗಿ ಪಾಠ ಕೇಳುವಂತೆ, ಅಷ್ಟು ಎತ್ತರವೂ ಅಲ್ಲದ ಅಷ್ಟು ತಗ್ಗೂ ಅಲ್ಲದ ಮೆದುದನಿಯಿಂದ, ನಿಧಾನವಾಗಿ ಹರಿಯುವ ತುಂಬು ನದಿಯಂತೆ, ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಖಚಿತವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿ, ಗೊತ್ತಾಗದ ಕಡೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ನಿರ್ವಂಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿ, ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ನಡಸಿದವರು. ಇವರ ಅನಂತರ ಬಂದವರು ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ಅವರು—ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ಮಲ್ಲತನದ ಮೈಕಟ್ಟು, ಧೀರವಾದ ನಿಲವು, ಕಂಚನಂದದ ಕಂಠ, ಪಾಠವೋ ಗದಾಯುದ್ಧ! 'ಪ್ರತಿಮಾನಾಟಕ' ದಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಂಕಣ್ಣಯ್ಯನವರು ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿಸಿ ವಿಚಾರಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದರೋ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆಲ್ಲ ಉಚಿತವಾದ ಉತ್ತರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿ ಇವರು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ನಮಗೆ ತರಗತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಒಂದು ತೂಕ ವಾದರೆ, ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರು ಕಲಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು ಹತ್ತು ತೂಕ. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಅಂತರಂಗವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲು ನಾವು ಇವರುಗಳಿಂದ ಕಲಿತೆವು; ಕನ್ನಡದ

ಬಗೆಗೆ ಹೇಗೆ ದುಡಿದು, ಋಣ ತೀರಿಸಿ ಕೃತಾರ್ಥರಾಗುವುದೆಂಬುದನ್ನೂ ಕಲಿತೆವು. ಇವರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಇನ್ನಿಬ್ಬರು ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಪಂಡಿತರು—ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಶೇಷಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಆರ್. ವರದಾಚಾರ್—ಇವರುಗಳನ್ನೂ ನಾನು ಮರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಳಗನ್ನಡದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನೂ ಜೈನಮತದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ನಾನು ಮೊದಲು ಕಲಿತದ್ದು ಈ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಗುರುಗಳಿಂದ.

ಇದಿಷ್ಟೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾಠಪ್ರವಚನಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿ ಬಂದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ನೆನಪಾಯಿತು. ಇತರ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರ ಪರಿಚಯ ನಮಗೆ ಬೆಳೆಯುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಒದಗದೆ ಹೋದರೂ, ಆಗ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ Musketry Training Classes ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ದಿಂದ ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಲ್. ನಾರಾಯಣರಾವ್, ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಅನಂತರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಮುಂತಾದವರೊಡನೆ ಡ್ರಿಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿ, ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಮಾಡಿ, ಹಿರಿಯರ ಸಹವಾಸದಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದ್ದನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುದೂ ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ನೆನಪಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮ Musketry Training Classes ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಜಮಾದಾರರ ಮುಖ, ಮೀಸೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿದಂತಿದೆ. ಹೆಸರು ಮರೆತುಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಮಸ್ಸಲ್ ಲೋಡಿಂಗ್ ಗನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ 'ಕಿಲೀನ್' ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನಾಗಲಿ, ಎಂ. ಎಚ್. ರೈಫಲ್ಲಿನ ಅಂಗಪ್ರತ್ಯಂಗಗಳ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಉರುಹೊಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದನ್ನಾಗಲಿ, ಟ್ರಾಜಕ್ಟರಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವೈಖರಿಯನ್ನಾಗಲಿ, "ಎಡದ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಬಂದ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು; ಬಲದ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಬಿಚ್ಚಿ ಬೇಕು; ಬ್ಯಾಕ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಕ ನಾಚ್, ಫೋರ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಕ ಧಾರ್, ಔರ್ ನಿಶಾನ್ ಕೆ ಫಿ ಬಜೆ ಏಕ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮೆ ರಹ್‌ನಾ" ಎಂಬ ಗ್ರಾಯತ್ರಿಯನ್ನಾಗಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಬ್ಯಾಚ್ ನವರು ಯಾರೂ ಮರೆಯಲಾರರು.

ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ—ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಹೋಟೆಲಿನ ನಾರಾಯಣ. ನಾನು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ನನಗೆ

ಆತನ ಪರಿಚಯ ಆಗಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣವೇನೆಂದರೆ ನಾನು ಕೆಲವರು ಸ್ವಯಂಪಾಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಹೋಟಲಿನ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇಲ್ಲದವರಾಗಿದ್ದೆವು. ಹತ್ತು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಒಳಗೆ ಶುಚಿಯಾದ ರುಚಿಯಾದ ಊಟ ನಡೆದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಹಣವೂ ಕೈಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹೋಟಲು ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ಇದೇ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕನಾಗಿ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೆ, ನಾರಾಯಣ ಹೋಟಲು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕೊಠಡಿಯ ಸಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೊಠಡಿಯೂ ಸಂಘವೂ ಇದ್ದಿತಾದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಆತನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಕೆಯುಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಆತನ ತಂದೆಯ ಕಾಲದಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರೇ ಹೋಟಲು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಂತೆ. ತಂದೆಯಿಂದ ಅದು ಮಗನಿಗೆ ನಡೆದುಬಂತು. ಒಂದು ಪೂರಿಪಲ್ಯ, ಒಂದು ದೋಸೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ, ಪಾಪ, ಮೂರನೆಯ ಹವ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದವನಲ್ಲ. ಅಸ್ತಿ ತಸ್ತಿ ದೂದ್‌ಫೇಡ, ಚೌಚೌ. ಬರುತ್ತ ಬರುತ್ತ ಊರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೋಟಲುಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದವು, ತಿಂಡಿಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದವು, ಕೇಳುವವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದರು. ಪೂರೈಸಲಾರದೆ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಇಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಹೊರಡಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ನಾಲ್ಕಾರು ವರ್ಷ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೋ ಹೋಟಲು ನಡೆಸಲು ಒದ್ದಾಡಿ, ಕೆಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ತೀರಿಕೊಂಡನಂತೆ. ಈಗ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನ್ ಒಳಗೆ ತಲೆ ಹಾಕಿದರೆ, ಆತನ ನೆನಪು ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಗ ದೋಸೆಯ ಕಾವಲಿಯ ಮುಂದೆಯೂ ಅವನೇ, ಸಪ್ಲೈ ಮಾಡುವವನೂ ಅವನೇ, ದುಡ್ಡು ಇಸುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದವನೂ ಅವನೇ. ನಾರಾಯಣನ ಆತ್ಮ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿಯಿಂದಿರಲಿ !

ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಮುಂಚೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಎರಡು ಮಾತು ಮನೆಯಿಂದರೆ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲ ; ಮೆಜಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಸಿನಿಮಾ ಎದುರಿಗಿರುವ ಕಮಲಾ ಭದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿನ ರೂಮು. ಎಂಟು ಹತ್ತು ಜನ ಅನ್ಯೋನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಇದ್ದದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದೇ “ಮನೆ” ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಮೂರು ನಾಲ್ಕು

ನಿಮಿಷದ ನಡಗೆ. ಆಗ ಆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗಿನಂತೆ ಸಿನಿಮಾಗಳಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಬಸ್ಸುಗಳಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹುಚ್ಚಾಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಎತ್ತರವಾದ ಗೋಡೆ, ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಡೆಗೆ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಜೈಲಿನ ಎತ್ತರವಾದ ಗೋಡೆ. ಗೋಡೆಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಬ್ಬಿಣದ ಸಲಾಕೆಗಳು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದ ಮೋರಿಗಳ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಮುಖವಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು, ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ಹುಚ್ಚರು, ಒಂದು ಕಡೆ ಖೈದಿಗಳು ; ಕಾಸು ಕೇಳುವರು, ಬೀಡಿ ಕೇಳುವರು. ಕೊಡದೆ ಹೋದರೆ ಬಯ್ಯುವರು. ಆಗ ಎರಡೂ ಕಡೆ ಎಂಥಸಾಲುಮರಗಳು ! ಅರಳಿ, ಆಲ ! ಆ ವಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೆರಡು, ಹಿಂದಿನವರ ನೆನಪಾಗಿ ಈಗಲೂ ಉಳಿದಿವೆ, ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಮಹಾದ್ವಾರದ ಹತ್ತಿರ !

ಆಗಿನ ಶಾಂತಿಯನ್ನೂ ಸಾವಧಾನವನ್ನೂ ಸೌಹಾರ್ದಗಳನ್ನೂ ನೆನಪು ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಮುದುಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ, ಗಂಟಲಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೋ ಒತ್ತಿ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೂ ಆ ಹಳೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳ ಬಲದಿಂದಲೇ ಈಗಿನ ವರ್ತಮಾನದ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಸಮಚಿತ್ತದಿಂದ ತಾಳಿಕೊಂಡು, ಹುಚ್ಚಾಸ್ಪತ್ರಿಗೆ ಮುಖ ತೋರಿಸದೆ, ತಕ್ಕಷ್ಟು ಮಟ್ಟಿನ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿಯಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಪಾಲಿನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತ ಬದುಕಿರುವೆವೆಂದು ನನ್ನ ಎದೆಯ ‘ಒಳಗಿನ ಒಳಗಿನ ಒಳದನಿಯೊಂದು’ ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಹೇಳಿ, ಹಿಡಿದು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ತನ್ನ ತರಗತಿಯೊಳಗಿನ ಪಾಠಗಳಿಂದ, ತರಗತಿಯ ಹೊರಗಿನ ಪಾಠಗಳಿಂದ, ನನ್ನಂಥ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಹುಡುಗರ ಮೈ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಬುದ್ಧಿ ಹೃದಯಗಳನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದಿ, ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ನೂರು ವರ್ಷ ತುಂಬಿರುವ ಈ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹೀಗೆಯೇ ಮುಂದಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನೂ ನೂರುಕಾಲ ಜಿಳಿಸಿ ಬದುಕಿಸಲಿ.

ಜಿ. ಪಿ. ರಾಜರತ್ನಂ

◆ ◆ ◆

THE DAYS I LEFT BEHIND

THE YEARS DURING WHICH I HAD THE privilege like many others of being a student of Central College, were some of the most eventful years in the history of India. The stir and the excitement of those revolutionary years prompt me to recall Wordsworth's lines which embody his romantic enthusiasm about the French Revolution :

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,

But to be young was very heaven—

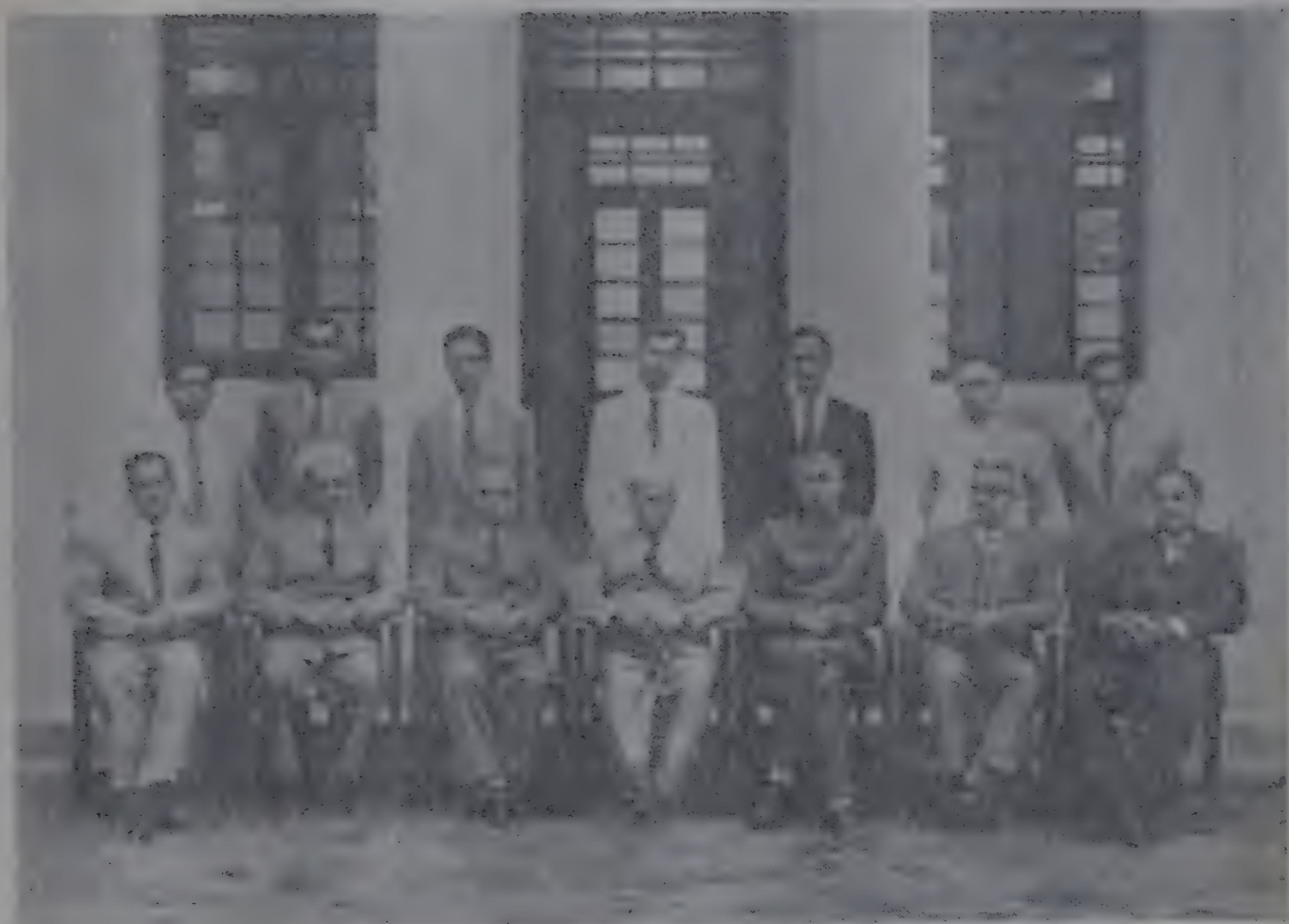
It is hardly necessary to add that the disillusionment that followed in the case of that great bard, did not follow the dawn of the new era in India. Breathing the fresh academic air of the Central College, one could be a part of the stirring life, and yet at the same time watch it now with sympathy, and now with detachment.

Those were the days of sufferings and sacrifices of the people including students, and their blood and tears paved the way for the constitutional, responsible government in our State in the year 1947. But the beginning of the following year saw the tragedy and triumph of Mahatma Gandhi whose martyrdom on the 30th of January plunged the country in sorrow almost in the wake of the jubilation following the achievement of freedom. The man to support whom publicly was almost sedition had become the Father of the Nation and from the Governor-General to a petty servant everybody was

dazed and bewildered. The days of authoritarian rule were over, and the Principal of the College standing under a tree addressed a vast concourse of mourning students. The procession of the students that started following this meeting was something unprecedented in its earnestness and strength. The man of God was no more, and he had gone the way of Socrates and Jesus.

Another great event of national and international significance was the inauguration of the constitution of Free India in the year 1950 which made India a sovereign democratic republic. This epoch-making event was celebrated in the College, and I had expected a mammoth gathering of students and teachers that bright sunny morning on the 26th of January. But I was disappointed to note that a large number including teachers had failed to turn up as the tricolour flag of India fluttered up in the air to the top of the mast. The Principal made a brief but significant speech befitting the grand event.

The reader may wonder what these great events have to do with my reminiscence of my association with Central College. Well, a citadel of learning in an awakened country like India which was struggling for freedom and unity could not remain untouched by the waves of the exciting life around it, and not to mention them will be an act of omission,



MANAGING COMMITTEE, CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION, 1958

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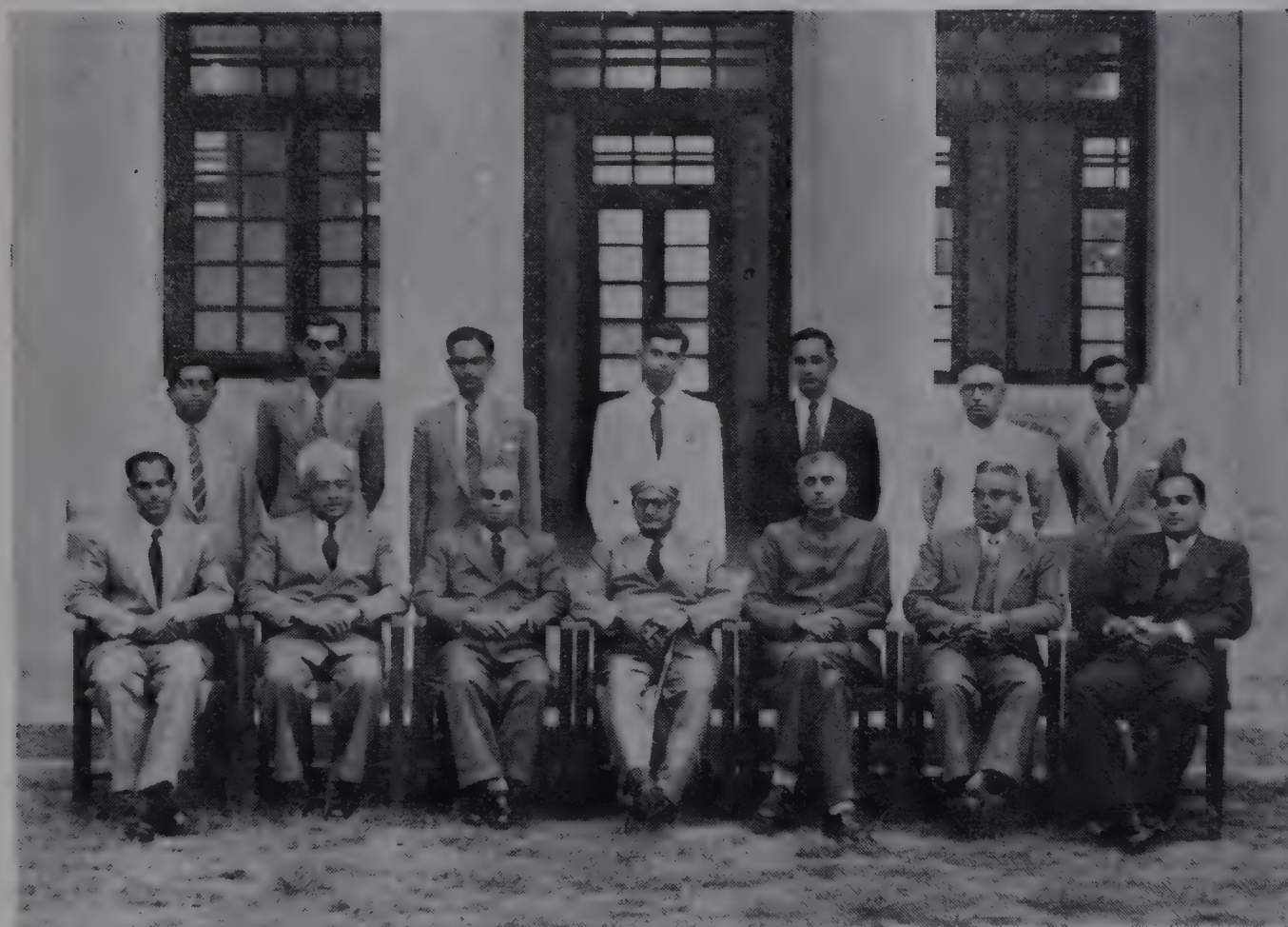
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NATIONAL CADET CORPS



N.C.C.—SOCIAL SERVICE

since the youth played no mean role in that exciting drama of suffering and sacrifice. In the years I am mentioning, however, there was little tension in the relation of the students and the College authorities, probably because of the unanimity of opinion on the contemporary events, not even, I suppose, when the students agitated, in the year we got the responsible government, for promotion from the junior classes without examination. The momentum that had gathered at the end of those days of agitation in the country was carried forward by the students with success!

To-day when I look back upon those days, and ask myself whether I am prepared to live those days once again I should say, please God, I would live those days once again. I can look back upon those days with pride and without regrets, and although I was a student of English language and literature in a College devoted primarily to Science, I should still like to congratulate myself on having been there. This premier Science College of the State with its clock-tower and Gothic windows and doorways has been warmly hospitable to the learning of language, and the students of language have no doubt amply repaid the debt by imbibing the spirit and method of Science. The block in which our English classes were held is known as the Mathematics block which is a yellow-washed new building compared to the blocks of red colour. It is pleasing to note that this hideous red colour is now being replaced by pleasing colours like yellow on numerous other government buildings at least.

The style of the windows and the doorways of the Mathematics building is

...the style of the windows and the doorways of the Mathematics building is ...

When I came from the ... College to Central College in ... this Gothic architecture was one of the first three features that struck me ... Another was the clock-tower which is unique in its own way. I remember ... in many a general knowledge test, the question how many clocks that tower has was put, and many students gave wrong answers. The third feature is that unlike the Maharaja's College, Central College is situated in the heart of the City inconveniently (or conveniently!) near the commercial avenues and the colourful cinemas. The virtue of Central College is not a cloistered virtue not withstanding its Gothic appearance. One can get into the interior of these imposing Science Blocks at high noon illuminated brightly by the ... of painted ... with the austerity and devotion ... by intellectual life.

The ... day ... by which ... of the ... is ... a day is sure to come ... of the future will be



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To-day when I look back upon those days, and ask myself whether I am prepared to live those days once again I should say, please God, I would live those days once again. I can look back upon those days with pride and without regrets, and although I was a student of English language and literature in a College devoted primarily to Science, I should still like to congratulate myself on having been there. This premier Science College of the State with its clock-tower and Gothic windows and doorways has been warmly hospitable to the learning of language, and the students of language have no doubt amply repaid the debt by imbibing the spirit and method of Science. The block in which our English classes were held is known as the Mathematics block which is a yellow-washed new building compared to the blocks of red colour. It is pleasing to note that this hideous red colour is now being replaced by pleasing colours like yellow on numerous other government buildings at least.

The style of the windows and the doorways of the Mathematics building is

Gothic like the style of those of the red buildings. The Gothic architecture is a powerful expression of the wild energy and enthusiasm, joy and vitality of the people of Mediaeval Europe, and I have a feeling that Central College which has this relic of mediaevalism will like the mediaeval churches and cathedrals of Europe withstand the onslaught of time, and will continue to remain a stronghold of learning.

When I came from the Maharaja's College to Central College in Bangalore, this Gothic architecture was one of the first three features that struck my mind. Another was the clock-tower which is unique in its own way. I remember how in many a general knowledge test, the question how many clocks that tower has was put, and many students gave wrong answers. The third feature is that unlike the Maharaja's College, Central College is situated in the heart of the City inconveniently (or conveniently!) near the commercial avenues and the colourful cinemas. The virtue of Central College is not a cloistered virtue notwithstanding its Gothic appearance. Once you get into the interior of those imposing Science blocks of high roofs illuminated faintly by the windows of pointed arches, you will, as it were, almost come into physical contact with the austerity and devotion demanded by intellectual life.

The College may not have spacious lawns reminding you of the footprints of great dons and holy men, nor a murmuring stream in the neighbourhood by which might have sat dreary young poets of far earlier centuries. The College is comparatively young, but a day is sure to come when the students of the future will be

awed and humbled by the antiquity and hoary tradition of this College, and the sacred memories of her great scholars and poets who have, probably, not yet been surrounded by the sanctity which can be given only by time. At the same time, one might legitimately wonder whether, at least a part of the continuity of this tradition has not been broken by the erection of a new Natural Science Block built of stone unlike the other blocks and radically different from them even from the architectural point of view with its conspicuous absence of pointed and arched doorways and windows.

There are other things, of course, over which I might ponder though I am no *laudator temporis acti*. The College Union, the elections of which were fought in no less a lively and exuberant manner than the General Election, was the home of many delightful activities including debates, music, drama and indoor-games. The Inter-Collegiate music competition conducted by the Union was exciting and entertaining though the competing musicians had to take courage in both hands to sing in the town-hall packed to the capacity with the students whose tastes and standard of judgment were unpredictable and indefinable. When the cat-calls were heard or the paper-aeroplanes darted, the unsuccessful musician did not know whether to sing or to cry.

The Union gave ample opportunities to students to participate in the Inter-Collegiate debates, and it nursed well the enthusiasm of those who wanted to become modern Ciceros. Not only the students but also the public had opportunities to hear from its platform the

stimulating and inspiring speeches of great statesmen and educationists of the calibre of Rajaji and the late Dr. C. R. Reddy. The former is the most outstanding of the old boys of Central College, and I remember that during our student-days Rajaji donated a weighty silver-medal to the College Union to be given to the best sportsman of the College. To-day, I am told that efforts are being made to revive the Union, and I hope that these efforts will succeed. It is true that in a huge College an able candidate, if he shuns propaganda and canvassing, may not after all be able to get elected, but that is true even in the case of General Election.

I shall be guilty of ingratitude, if I do not, before I end my reminiscence, make a reference to the magnificent work done by the professors and teachers who did a lot in shaping our minds and destinies. Since all of my teachers in Central College are happily still with us, it will be too embarrassing to mention their names. An exception may be made in the case of Professor J. K. Walton, since he is far away from us in Ireland his homeland. He was very young and extremely handsome; he never laughed loudly though he enjoyed fun very well; but it was a sight to see him blush. Simple and charming, everyday he came to the College on a lady's bicycle quite oblivious of the gaze of the curious spectators. Professor Walton was a man of quiet and retiring disposition, and though our contacts with him were not numerous—he stayed here for a brief period of only two years—I am sure he is a person to be remembered. In the beginning some students found it rather difficult to follow his English accents, and I vividly remember how once when he

uttered the word poetry some student took it down in his note-book as pottery.

Our other professor was an outstanding scholar. We hung on his lips when he was teaching melancholy themes like Milton and the Greek tragedies. There are literary creations that lift us out of the humdrum life we lead, and bring us into contact with the profound spiritual world, and our professor whose grasp of the language was masterly and whose understanding of life was deep and original, soared to great heights when he interpreted such literary masterpieces.

He was assisted by a galaxy of brilliant teachers many of whom had won distinction in the academic or literary field. They were gems that made us congratulate ourselves on having been their students. Their presence in the English Seminar had a great effect, though it is true that the writer of the present article once got on their nerves by reading an awfully lengthy

paper on Meredith ! I was of course engrossed in reading, and during those forty-five minutes was blissfully ignorant of the reactions written on the faces of my fellow-students whom decorum prevented from leaving the room. Later when I met a class-mate of mine at the West-End Hotel where we had gathered to take part in a student programme conducted by the Rotary Club, she told me politely but discreetly that my paper was good but it prevented her and her friends from catching their bus.

One can go on writing endlessly on this great College as one's memory rolls back, and therefore to end the reminiscence appropriately is rather difficult. Its unique and enigmatic tower with its three clocks, with the fourth side kept vacant is symbolic of what is yet to be done. Truly there can be no end to progress, and "the best is yet to be".

K. DWARAKANATH

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ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಜೀವನ

ಇತರರ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ ಸಮಾಚಾರಗಳಿಂದ ನಾವು ಸ್ವಂತವಾಗಿ ಅರಿಯದ ವಿಷಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದು ಮಸಕುಮಸಕಾದ, ದೃಢವಲ್ಲದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಅಂತಹ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಂತವಾಗಿ ಅರಿಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಒದಗಿಬಂದಾಗ ನಮ್ಮ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಒಬ್ಬ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಕನ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ವಸ್ತುವಿನ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ನಾವು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಭಾವನೆ ಅದ್ಭುತವನ್ನೇ ಉಂಟು ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪರಿಣಾಮವನ್ನವಲಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಆ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ನಮ್ಮ ಗ್ರಾಹಕಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನೂ ತಕ್ಕ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ನಾವು ಆಳಿಯುವ ದಾದರೆ, ಒಂದೇ ವಸ್ತುವಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅನೇಕರು ತೀರ ಭಿನ್ನವಾದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರಬಹುದು.

ನಾನು ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳುವ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದೆ ನಾದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಯಾರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳು ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯಕಾರಕ ಸಂದೇಹಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶಕೊಡದಿರಲೆಂಬ ಭಾವನೆಯಿಂದ, ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದಾಗ ನಾನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಾಪಕದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ನಾನು ಇಂಟರ್ ಮೀಡಿಯೆಟ್ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ

ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಅನೇಕ ಸಮಾಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಒಂದು “ಭತ್ತ” ವೆನಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅದೇ ಭಾವನೆ ನನ್ನನ್ನೂ ಆಹುತಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು. “ಆಯ್ಯೋ, ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜೇ! ದೊಡ್ಡ ಭತ್ತ ಕಾಣ್ರೇ. ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಾವಿರ ಜನಾಣ ಬೇಕಾದ್ರೂ ತುಂಬಬಹುದು. ಬೇಕಾದ್ರೇ ಆದನ್ನ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಅಂತಲೇ ಕರೀರಿ. ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷವೂ ಕೆಲವು ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಂಡಿರೋ ಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನೂ ಎಣಿಸಲಾರದಷ್ಟು ಆರ್ಪಣವಾದ ಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನೂ ಉಹಿಸಲಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಷ್ಟು ನಿರುಪಯೋಗವಾದ ಭಾಗಗಳನ್ನೂ ತಯಾರಿಸಿ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಪಿಸೋ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಅಂತಲೇ ಇಟ್ಟೊಳ್ಳಿ” ಎಂದು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವನ್ನು ಮಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು ಓರ್ವ ಮಹನೀಯರು. ಆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನೂ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕರಿಸಿ “ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಒಂದು ನಿರುಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ” ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಆದರ ಸತ್ಯಾಸತ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಂತವಾಗಿ ಅರಿಯುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇನ್ನೂ ಒದಗಿಬಂದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ನಾನು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿರುಚಿಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ. ಇಂಟರ್ ಮೀಡಿಯೆಟ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣನಾದ ನನಗೆ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರವನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ “ಹುಚ್ಚು” ಉದ್ಭವಿಸಿ, ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಧಿ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿಗೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ದಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ

ವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ದಿನ ನಾನು ಅದರ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಭಾವನೆಗಳು ನಿಜವೇನೋ ಎಂಬ ಭ್ರಾಂತಿಯುಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿದರೂ ಹುಡುಗರ ಗುಂಪು, ಗಲಭೆ. ಬಹುಶಃ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಅಷ್ಟು ಗಲಭೆಯಿಲ್ಲ ವೇನೋ! ಹುಡುಗರನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದಾಗ ಅವರೆಲ್ಲ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೇ ಎಂಬ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸಂಶಯ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು. ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ವೇಷಭೂಷಣಗಳಿಂದ ಅಲಂಕೃತರಾಗಿ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ನಟರಂತೆ ಮೆರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹುಡುಗರು ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲಾ ಗೊಂದಲ ವನ್ನೆಬ್ಬಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯದ ಯಾವುದೋ ಮೂಲೆಯಿಂದ ಒಂದು ಕೂಗು ಏಳುತ್ತಲೇ ಇತ್ತು; “ಕೇವಲ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಪ್ರಭಾವಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೆ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಲವು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಒಣನಟನೆಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪುರಾತನವಾದ, ಭವ್ಯಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನುಳ್ಳ ಈ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸ್ಥಾನಮಾನಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಷ್ಕರ್ಷಿಸಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸಬೇಡ. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅಂತರಾತ್ಮವನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಲಿತ್ತಿಸು” ಎಂದು ಆ ಕೂಗು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಪದೇ ಪದೇ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿ ನಾನು ಅದರ ಆವರಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದುದು ಅದೇ ಮೊದಲ ದಿನವಾಗಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಕುತೂಹಲವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತಡೆಹಿಡಿಯಬೇಕಾಯಿತು.

ಹೃನ್ಮನಗಳನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಭವ್ಯವಾದ ಕೆಂಪು ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಸಾಲನ್ನು ಎದುರಿದ್ದ ಹುಲ್ಲಿನ ಮೈದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದಾಗ ನನ್ನ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಆಮೃತ ಸೇಚನೆ ಯಾದಂತೆ ಆಯಿತು. ಅದರೂ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅಂತರಾತ್ಮ ವನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಪಾಠ ಪ್ರವಚನಗಳು ಆರಂಭವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಎರಡನೆಯ ದಿನ ದಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ನಿಜಜೀವನ ಆರಂಭ ವಾಯಿತು. ನನ್ನ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೀಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಕಾಲ ಬದಿಗೊತ್ತಿ, ನನ್ನ ಆತ್ಮವನ್ನು ಸಾಂತ್ವನ ಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ವರ್ಣಿಸಲಿತ್ತಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ನನ್ನಂತೆಯೇ ಹಲವಾರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಭೌತ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಆರಿಸಿ

ಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದರು. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಭೌತ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ವಿಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದೆವು. ಭೂತಾಕಾರ ವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕೆಲವು ಯಂತ್ರಗಳೂ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಯೋಗ ಸಾಧನಗಳೂ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೋ ಒಂದು ಕಿನ್ನರ ಲೋಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ದವು. [ಉಳಿದವರು ಯಾವ ಭಾವನಾ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವನ್ನಡರಿದರೋ ನಾನರಿಯೆ] ಎಂದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಅವುಗಳ ಪರಿಚಯ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದೆಂಬ ಆಸೆ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಕುರಿಸಿತು. ಒಬ್ಬರು ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಂಡು ಪರಿಚಯಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೆಲವು ಹಿತವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಈಗಿನ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಬುದ್ಧಿವಾದವು ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಭೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿದೆ. ಬುದ್ಧಿವಾದ ಹೇಳುವವರು ಅದನ್ನು ಅನು ಸರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಬಾಯಿಂದ ಅದು ನವರಸಭರಿತವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಬಿದ್ದರೆ ಸಾಕು, ಹೇಗೋ ಕೇಳುವವರ ಮನಃಪಟಲದಮೇಲೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾದ, ಸುಂದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವನ್ನುಂಟುಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿತ್ತ ಬುದ್ಧಿವಚನಗಳು ಬಹಳ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ಅವರು ಆಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಮಾತೂ ಅವರ ಹೃದಯದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬೀಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ನನಗೆ ಭಾಸವಾಯಿತು. ಯಾವ ತರಹದ ನಾಟಕೀ ಯತೆಯೂ ಅಲ್ಲಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. “ನೀವು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನಗಳನ್ನು ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮುಡುಪಿಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದೀರಿ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇಸಮನಾದ ಅಭಿರುಚಿ ಯಿದೆಯೋ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ ನಾನರಿಯೆ. ಆದರೆ ಎಲ್ಲರಲ್ಲೂ ಸಮನಾದ ಉತ್ಸಾಹವಿದ್ದರೆ ಸಾಕು. ನೀವಿನ್ನೂ ಮುಗ್ಧರಾದ, ಅನನುಭವಿಗಳಾದ ಬಾಲಕರು. ನಿಮಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಹಕಾರವೂ ಉಂಟು. ಆದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ನಿಮಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ವಿಷಯ. ಮಾನವನಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ಮೇಲೆ ಏನನ್ನಾದರೂ ಸಾಧಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಮನೋಭಾವವಿರಬೇಕು. ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಸ್ತು ಕಡಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಇದೆ. ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಕೈನೀರಿ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರ ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನೀವು ಹಿಡಿಯಬೇಡಿ. ಕೇವಲ ಪರಿ

ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಪ್ರಭಾವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವನ್ನು ಅರಿಯದ ಆ ಬಾಲಕರು ಹಾಗೆ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಬದಲಾಗುವವರೆಗೆ ಅದನ್ನು ನಾವು ಸರಿಪಡಿಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ. ನೀವು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿರಲು. ಆದರೆ 'ಕರ್ಮಣ್ಯೇವಾಧಿಕಾರಸ್ತೇ ಮಾ ಫಲೇಷು ಕದಾಚನ' ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮರೆಯಬೇಡಿ", ಎಂದು ಬುದ್ಧಿವಾದ ಹೇಳಿದ ಆ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ಅತೀವ ಗೌರವ ಮೂಡಿತು.

ಅವರ ತರಗತಿಗಳಂತೂ ಬಹಳ ಉತ್ಸಾಹ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಕೇವಲ ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬರೆದು ಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಮಗೆ ಇಂಟರ್‌ಮೀಡಿಯೇಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ತರಬೇತು ಕೊಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿತ್ತು. ಆಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿದ ವಿಷಯದ ಹೃದಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಮಾಡುವ ಹಂಬಲ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಡಿರಲೂ ಇಲ್ಲ, ಮೂಡಿಸಲು ಯಾರೂ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ, ನಮ್ಮ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರು ಅದರ ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ಕೆಲವೇ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಮಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ನಾವು ಕಲಿಯಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಒಂದೊಂದೇ ವಿಷಯದ ಮೇಲೂ ಹಲವಾರು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಮನೋಭಾವಗಳನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಉತ್ಸಾಹವನ್ನು ಕೆರಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಜ್ಞಾನಾನ್ವೇಷಣೆಗೆ ಅದೇ ಸಂಯಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗವೆಂದು ನನಗೆ ಕ್ರಮೇಣ ಅರಿವಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿತು.

ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ನಮಗೆ 'ಮ್ಯಾಥಮ್ಯಾಟಿಕ್ಸ್ ಫಿಸಿಕ್ಸ್' ಅನ್ನು ಬೋಧನೆ ಮಾಡಲಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರಾರೆಂಬುದೇ ನಮಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ನಮ್ಮ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಭಂಡಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ಹರಟೆ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. 45-46 ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ, ಸಾತ್ವಿಕ ತೇಜಸ್ವಿನಿಂದ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಹಿರಿಯರು ಬಂದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸನಿಹದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಅವರೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿರಬಹುದೇನೋ ಎಂಬ ಸಂಶಯ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಭವಿಸಿತು. "ಛೇ, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದರೂ ಉಂಟೇ? ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರಾದವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಕೂಡುವುದುಂಟೇ?" ಎಂದು ನನ್ನ ಮೊದಲಭಾವನೆಯಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡೆ.

ಅವರ ಪ್ರವೇಶದಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಅರೆಮೌನವಾವರಿಸಿತು. ಪಿಸುಮಾತಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಹರಟೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದೆವು. ಇದ್ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ " ನೀವು ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಆನರ್ಸ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೇ?" ಎಂದು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಅವರು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ಹಾವನ್ನು ಕಂಡಾಗ ಕೂಡ ನಾವು ಅಷ್ಟು ಭಯಪಡುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲವೇನೋ. ಏಕಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತು ಕುರ್ಚಿಗಳೂ ಅತ್ತ ಸರಿದುವು. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸರಕ್ಕನೆ ಎದ್ದು ಹಿಂದೆ ನಿಂತು ಅವರಿಗೆ ನಮಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದೆವು. ಅವರ ಮುಖದಿಂದ ದೀರ್ಘವಿಶಾಲ ನಗೆ ಹೊರಟಿತು. ಆ ನಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಎದೆಗೆ ಅಮೃತಸೇಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿತು. ಅವರು ಒಬ್ಬೊಬ್ಬರ ಬಳಿಗೂ ಬಂದು ತೀರಾ ಸ್ನೇಹಭಾವದಿಂದ [ನಾನು ಅಂತಹ ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಸನ್ನಿವೇಶವನ್ನು ಕಂಡೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ] ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ತಮ್ಮ ಪರಿಚಯವನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ನಾವು ಯಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವೋ ಅವರೇ ಅವರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಕಾಲ ಕ್ರಮೇಣ ಅವರ ತರಗತಿಗಳೂ ಆರಂಭವಾದುವು. ಅವರ ಆರಂಭದ ವಚನಗಳು ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಚ್ಚೂತ್ತಿ ನಿಂತಿವೆ.

"ನೀವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸರಸ್ವತಿಯ ಆರಾಧಕರು. ಶುದ್ಧ ನಿಷ್ಕಪಟ ಹೃದಯದಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಆದರೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಅನ್ಯಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಂದ ಕಾಟಾಚಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸಮಾಡಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡು ಮೆರೆಯುವ ಹಂಬಲ, ನಡತೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈಗಿರುವಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾದ ಒಂದು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ನೀತಿಯಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆಯೂ ಏಕರೂಪಿನ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಗುರಿಯಾಗಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾಪದ್ಧತಿಯು ಜನತೆಗೆ ಅವರ ಜೀವಿತ ರೂಪುಗೊಳಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಧನ ಒದಗಿಸಬೇಕು. ಗುರುಶಿಷ್ಯ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಬಹಳ ಸುಂದರತಮವಾದುದು. ಸರಸ್ವತಿಯ ಆರಾಧನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗುರು ಬೇರೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಶಿಷ್ಯ ಬೇರೆಯಲ್ಲ. ಇಬ್ಬರೂ ನಿಕಟ ವರ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಆರಾಧಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಕೈಗೂಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ" ಎಂದು ಹೃದಯ ಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದ ಅವರ ಮಾತುಗಳು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಪುಲಕಿತ

ನನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದುವು. 'ಹಿಂದಿನ ನನ್ನ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜೇ ಇದು?' ಎಂಬ ಸಂಶಯವೂ ಉದ್ಭವಿಸಿತು.

ಎರಡನೇ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂರನೇ ಆನರ್ಸ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬೋಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಎರಡು ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಆಕ್ರಮಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನಾವು ಕೆಲವು ಬಾರಿ ನಿರಾಶ್ರಿತರಂತೆ ಹೊರಗೆ ನಿಂತಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ತತ್ಕ್ಷಣ "ಸ್ವರ್ಗ"ವು ನಮಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತು. ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯಪಡಬೇಡಿ. ನಾನು ಹೇಳಿದ ಈ 'ಸ್ವರ್ಗ' ಒಂದು ಕೊಠಡಿ ಮಾತ್ರ. ನಮ್ಮ ಭೌತ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮೂರನೇ ಮಹಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದೇ ಒಂದು ಕೊಠಡಿಯಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ತಲಪಲು ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವದ ಮೇಲೆ ಆಸೆಯನ್ನು ತ್ಯಜಿಸಿ, ಮುಪ್ಪಿನಿಂದ ಕ್ಷೇಣವಾಗಿ ಸುರುಳಿಯಾಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳ ಸಾಲನ್ನು ಹತ್ತಿ ಹೋಗಬೇಕು. ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಆ ಕೊಠಡಿಯನ್ನು ತಲಪಿದರೆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಷ್ಟೇ ಆನಂದವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗೀಯ ಆನಂದಾನುಭವ ಕೇವಲ ಇಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲೇ ಅಡಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಬೇಡಿ. ಆ ಕೊಠಡಿಯ ಭೂತಾಕಾರದ ಕಿಟಕಿಗಳ ಬಳಿ ನಿಂತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಪಕ್ಷಿನೋಟದ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಆನಂದಿಸಬೇಕು. ನನ್ನ ಲೇಖನಿಯು ಆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗೀಯ ದೃಶ್ಯದ ತೃಣಮಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ಕೂಡ ನಿಮಗೆ ತಲಪಿಸಲಾರದೇನೋ. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸೈನಿಕರಂತೆ ಒಬ್ಬರ ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಹತ್ತಿ ಆ ಕೊಠಡಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಮಾತೆಯ ಸೌಂದರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಆಸ್ವಾದಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಕುಳಿತಿರುವಾಗ ಸಾತ್ವಿಕರಾದ ಆ ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರುಗಳು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಗಂಭೀರ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಗವತ್ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಸರಸ್ವತಿಯ ಆರಾಧನೆಗೆ ಆ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧವಾಗಿರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ತದನಂತರ, ಓಡಿಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾಲದ ಪರಿಜ್ಞಾನವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಆ ಗುರುಗಳ ಅಮೃತವಾಣಿಯನ್ನು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಭೌತ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವನ್ನು ದಾರ್ಶನಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ನೋಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಮನೋಭಾವ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಕುರಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿತು.

ಆನರ್ಸ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಲವನ್ನು ಕಳೆಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದುದು ಅತ್ಯವಶ್ಯಕ. ಆದರೆ ನಾವು ಇಂಟರ್ ಮೀಡಿಯೇಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನೇ ಕೊಡದೆ ನಿರ್ಲಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆವು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನಗೆ ನಿಯಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅರ್ಧಘಂಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸಿ ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮೈದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬ್ಯಾಸ್ಕೆಟ್ ಬಾಲ್ ಪಂದ್ಯವನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಕಡೆಯೇ ಹರಿದಿತ್ತು. ನಾನು ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿದ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೇ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲ್ವಿಚಾರಕರಾಗಿದ್ದರು, ಅಂದಿನ ದಿನ. ನನ್ನ ಆತುರವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ನನ್ನ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದರು. ನನ್ನ ಎದೆ ಕಂಪಿಸಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿತು. ಬಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದವರೇ ನನ್ನ ಡೆಗಲಮೇಲೆ ಕೈಹಾಕಿ "ಏನು ನೀನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು?" ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರು. ನಾನು ಮಾನವಾಗಿದ್ದೆ. "ನೀನು ಏನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಅರಿವಾದರೂ ನಿನಗಿದೆಯೋ?" ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದಾಗ "ನನಗೆ ನಿಯಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಪ್ರಯೋಗವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿಮುಗಿಸುವುದು ಮಾತ್ರ ನನ್ನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಾಲಗೆಯವರೆಗೂ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮರ್ಮಾದೆಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ತಡೆಹಿಡಿದೆ. ಅನಂತರ ಅವರು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಭಿರುಚಿಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆಯ ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. "ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆ ನಿನ್ನ ಶತ್ರುವೆಂದು ನೀನು ಭಾವಿಸಬಾರದು, ಇದನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಯಜ್ಞಶಾಲೆಯೆಂದು ನೀನು ಭಾವಿಸಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಪ್ರಯೋಗವನ್ನೂ ನೀನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾಧೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ನಡಸಿ, ಅದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುವ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿ ಕಂಡುಬರಬಹುದಾದ ಕಳಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕುತೂಹಲದಿಂದ ಗಮನಿಸಬೇಕು. ನೀನು ವಿಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ನಿನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ಸಂಗಾತಿಯನ್ನಾಗಿ ಆರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮರೆಯಬೇಡ" ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದಾಗ ಕ್ಷಣಕಾಲ ನನ್ನ ಮುಖಭಂಗವಾದಂತೆ ಅನ್ನಿಸಿದರೂ ನನ್ನ ಆತ್ಮ ಆ ಹಿತವಚನಗಳಿಂದ

ತ್ಯಸ್ತಿಗೊಂಡಿತು. ನನ್ನ ಮನೋಭಾವವೂ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿತು.

ಅಂದಮಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವಿಷಯವಾದ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರವನ್ನೇ ಹುಚ್ಚನಂತೆ ಹಿಂಬಾಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆನೆಂದು ಅರ್ಥವಲ್ಲ. ನಾನೂ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ರಸಿಕನೇ. ಒಂದಲ್ಲ ಒಂದು ಉತ್ತಮ ಹವ್ಯಾಸಗಳನ್ನು ಹತ್ತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡೇ ಬಂದಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಕಾಲೆಜ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ “ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಬಯಸುವವರು ಕಾಲೆಜ್ ಆಫೀಸಿನ ಹಿಂಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಂಘದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವದ ಚಂದಾ ಎಂಟಾಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಬಹುದು” ಎಂದಿತ್ತು. (ಅಂದಹಾಗೆ, ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನ ವಿಷಯ ಬಂದಾಗ ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರೋಡೀಕೃತವಾಗಿರುವ ಭಾವನೆಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹೊರಹೊಮ್ಮುತ್ತವೆ. ಕಾಲೆಜ್ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಹೋದ ವರ್ಷದ ಸಮಾಚಾರಗಳನ್ನೂ ತಿಳಿಯಲವಕಾಶವಿದೆ. ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಬೋರ್ಡಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಗದಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ನನಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ, ‘ಹಳೇ ಪೇಪರ್’ ನವನಿಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಐವತ್ತು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಪಾದಿಸಬಲ್ಲೆ. ಇನ್ನು ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾನೇ ಆ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ತನ್ನ ಗತವೈಭವವನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡಿತು !)

ಏನೋ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಎಲ್ಲಿಗೋ ಬಂದುಬಿಟ್ಟೆ. ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕುತ್ತಾ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಹಿಂಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದೆ. ಯಾವುದೋ ಒಂದು ಕೊಠಡಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಘದ ಕಛೇರಿಯೆಂದು ಭ್ರಮಿಸಿ ಒಳಹೊಕ್ಕೆ. ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ದ್ರಾವಕಗಳ ವಿಚಿತ್ರವಾಸನೆಯು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಎದುರುಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಯಾರೋ ಒಬ್ಬರು ಹಿರಿಯರು [ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಿರಬೇಕು] ನನ್ನ ಆಗಮನದ ಸುಳಿವನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ತಮ್ಮ ಸುಲೋಚನಧಾರೀ ಶಿರಸ್ಸನ್ನು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಿ ಮೇಲಕ್ಕೆತ್ತಿ ಕುತೂಹಲದಿಂದ ನನ್ನೆಡೆಗೆ ನೋಡಿದರು. ನನಗೆ ಆ ವೇಳೆಗೇ ಅದು ಸಸ್ಯಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗವೆಂದು ಅರಿವಾಗಿತ್ತು. “ಕ್ಷಮಿಸಿ ಸಾರ್” ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಜಾರಿಕೊಂಡೆ. ಕೊಲಂಬಸ್ ತನ್ನ ಅಮೇರಿಕದ ಅನ್ವೇಷಣೆ

ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಧದಾರಿ ತಲಪಲು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಕಡಮೆಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘಾನ್ವೇಷಣೆಯು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಮಾಡಿ ನನ್ನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಿ ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯನಾದೆ. ಸಂಘದ “ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ” ಯಾಗ ಬೇಕೆಂಬ ದುರಾಸೆಯೂ ಇತ್ತು ಎನ್ನಿ. ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಪರಮಾಣು ಬಾಂಬು (!) ಎದುರುಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಯಾರೋ ಒಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ತನ್ನ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತನಿಗೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ : “ಈ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೆಜ್ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯವೆಂದರೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗಳಿಂದ ದೂರವಾಗಿದ್ದುಕೊಂಡೇ ತನ್ನ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ರೀತಿ” ಎಂದು. ನಾನು ಅವನ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಅವನ ಮಾತಿನ ವಿವರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಪೇಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಅವನು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಕ್ಷಣಕಾಲ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಅನಂತರ ಉತ್ತರವಿತ್ತ : “ಈ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಗೀರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿನ ಚುನಾಯ್ತೋದಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಣ್ರೀ. ಅಭಿರುಚಿ ಇರೋ ಹುಡುಗರ ಕೈಲಿ ಜೆನ್ನಾಗ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಕಸರತ್ತು ಮಾಡಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಟ್ಯಾಲೆಂಟ್ ಇರೋ ಹುಡುಗರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಕೊಡ್ತಾರೆ, ಆಪ್ತೇ. ಸಂಘ ಹೊರಡ್ಸಿರೋ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳನ್ನ ಓದಿಲ್ವೇ ನೀವು?” ಎಂದು ಆ ಹುಡುಗ ಹೇಳುವ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಮೈಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬೆವರಿತ್ತು. ಮೂರನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಮುಖಭಂಗವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಯಾವ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ನನ್ನ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಿಯೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೆನೋ ಅದು ಸೋಲನ್ನು ಭವಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದ ಸಂಘದ ನಿಷ್ಠಾವಂತ ಸದಸ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನೂ ಒಬ್ಬನಾದೆ. ಕಲಾತ್ಮಕ ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರಾಶಸ್ತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಲು ನನಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕವಾದ ಸಂಘಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಚಿರಋಣಿ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಒಂದೇ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಂಘಗಳು ಜನ್ಮತಾಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಇವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಘಗಳೂ ಹೊರಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯಂತೆ ಕಂಡರೂ, ಆಂತರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲದರ ಧೈಯವೂ ಒಂದೇ—ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿರುಚಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವುದು, ಪುಷ್ಟೀಕರಿಸುವುದು. ನಾನು ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿರುವ “ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಸಂಘ” ದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಿಕಟವರ್ತಿ

ಯಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಈ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಆನರ್ಸ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಸುವ ಅವಕಾಶವೂ ನನಗೆ ದೊರೆತಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಸಂಘದ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜನ್ಮತಾಳಿರುವ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಬಾಹುಳ್ಯವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಘಗಳೆಲ್ಲದರ ಸದಸ್ಯನಾಗಬಯಸುವವನು ಆಜನ್ಮ ಶ್ರೀಮಂತನಾಗಿರಬೇಕು. 'ಒಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಆತನು ಸದಸ್ಯನಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಆಧಾರದಿಂದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಬಹುದು' ಎಂದು ನನ್ನ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತನ ಬಳಿ ತಮಾಷೆಗಾಗಿ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದೆ.

ನಾನು ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಆನರ್ಸ್‌ನ ಘಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಅನುಭವ ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿ ಬಂತು. ಮೂರನೆಯ ಆನರ್ಸ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಸೇರಿ ತಾವು ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಬಿಡುವ ಮುನ್ನ ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭವನ್ನು ಆನಂದದಿಂದ ಕಳೆಯಬೇಕೆಂದು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯವರ್ಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಪಂದ್ಯವನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದರು. ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪರ ಆಡಲು ನಾನೂ ಆರಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟೆ. ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಪಂದ್ಯದ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಕಡೆ ಅಷ್ಟು ಗಮನವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪಂದ್ಯದ ಮೂಲಕ ಮನರಂಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದೇ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಅಭಿಲಾಷೆಯೂ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯವರ್ಗದವರೇ ಆಟವನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಹಿರಿಯರಾದ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ತಲೆನರೆತ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರೊಬ್ಬರು ಆಟವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಬ್ಯಾಟನ್ನು ಸೌದೆಯ ತುಂಡಿನಂತೆ ಆಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಆ ಗುರುಗಳೆಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಕೊನೆಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ "ಹೊರಬಿದ್ದರು" ಎಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಒಬ್ಬೊಬ್ಬರೂ ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ಬಾರಿ ಹೊರಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದರು. ಆಟದ ನಿಯಮಗಳೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಕಾಣದ ಲೋಕವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿದ್ದವು. ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯವರ್ಗದವರು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಭರಿತ ಆಟ (!) ದಿಂದ 92 ಓಟಗಳನ್ನು ಪೇರಿಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೊರಬಿದ್ದರು. ಅನಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕವರ್ಗದವರೂ ಸೇರಿ ಬಹಳ ಆಹ್ಲಾದಕರ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಾಹಾರವನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸಿದೆವು.

ಅನಂತರ ನಾವು ಆಟವನ್ನಾರಂಭಿಸಿದೆವು. ಹಲವು ಎಮ್.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕ ತಂಡದವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಂಬ್ ಧಾಳಿಯನ್ನೇ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ನಾನು ಆ ಬಾಂಬ್ ಧಾಳಿಯನ್ನು ಬಹಳಹೊತ್ತು ಧೈರ್ಯದಿಂದಲೇ ಎದುರಿಸಿ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆ ಪಡೆದೆ. ನಮ್ಮ ಆಟದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ತರಹದ ನಿಯಮಗಳೂ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದವು. ನಮ್ಮ ಆಟವೆಲ್ಲಾ 45 ಓಟಗಳಿಗೇ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯವರ್ಗದವರು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತ (!) ವಿಜಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದರು.

ನಾನು ಮೊದಲನೇ ಆನರ್ಸ್ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಮುನ್ನ ನಡೆದ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಸಮಾರಂಭವನ್ನು ನೆನೆಸಿಕೊಂಡಾಗಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಕಾರ್ಯಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳೇ ಮೇಲೆದ್ದು ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತವೆ. ಸಂಘದ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಹಲವಾರು ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಿಗೂ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಭೇಟಿಯಿತ್ತೆವು. ನನ್ನಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಹೇಳುವುದಾದರೆ ನನ್ನ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ವಿಶಾಲವಾಯಿತು. ಅನೇಕ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾವಂತರ ಭಾಷಣಗಳನ್ನಾಳಿಸುವ ಅವಕಾಶವೂ ಒದಗಿತು. ಸಂಘದ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಸಮಾರಂಭ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿಯೂ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿಯೂ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಡಾ|| ಭಗವಂತಮೂರವರು ಸಮಾರಂಭದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದ "ಲಕ್ಶ್ಮಿ ಡಿಪ್" ಬಹಳ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯವಾಯಿತು. ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೇಜಿನ ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯನ್ನು ಕೂಡಿಸಿ ಅವನ ಬಳಿ ಹಲವಾರು ಸುಲಭ ಬೆಲೆಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನಿಟ್ಟಿದೆವು. ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಣ್ಣೆಯ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಟೋಪಿಯನ್ನು ನಾವು ಆ "ಭಾವಿ" ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅದ್ದಿದಾಗ ಏನಾದರೊಂದು ವಸ್ತು ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಅದೃಷ್ಟ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಾಗಿ ಹಲವಾರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಎರಡೆರಡಾಣೆ ತೆತ್ತು ಬೇಸ್ತುಬಿದ್ದರು. ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಸಮಾರಂಭದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರೇ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಕಿರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ನಾನೊಂದು ಪುಟ್ಟ ಭಾಷಣವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದನ್ನು ಶ್ರೀ ಭಗವಂತಮೂರವರು ಮೆಚ್ಚಿಕೊಂಡು ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಅನುಭವಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ನನ್ನ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಘಟನೆ ನೆನಪಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಉಪಾಹಾರದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆದು ಅವರಿಗೂ ಉಪಹಾರವಿತ್ತೆವು. ಒಬ್ಬನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಏನನ್ನೂ ತಿನ್ನದೆ ಒಂದು ಬಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಂಡಿಯನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೊರಡಲನುವಾದ. ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯಗೊಂಡ ನಾನು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಆತನು, “ನಾನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಮಜಾಮಾಡ್ತಿದ್ದೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಂಡ್ತೀನುಕು ಉಪವಾಸದಿಂದ್ದೇನೇ ಸಾಯ್ಬೇಕಾ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ” ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿದ. ನನಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಖೇದವೂ ಆತನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಗೌರವವೂ ಉಂಟಾದವು. ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಆತನಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ತಿಂಡಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಕಳುಹಿದೆ.

ಈ ಅನುಭವಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ನನ್ನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ವರ್ಷಾಂತ್ಯದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಒದಗಿಬಂತು. ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರುಗಳ ಉದಾತ್ತ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಾಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಲಿತಿದ್ದ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ನನಗೆ ಶಕ್ತವಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿದೆ. ಅನಂತರ ಮೂರು ತಿಂಗಳ ರಜೆ. ನನಗಂತೂ ರಜೆಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆಯುವುದೇ ಬಹಳ ಬೇಸರವಾಯಿತು. ಎಂದಿಗೆ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬರುವುದೋ ಎಂದು ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಹಾತೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆ ವೇಳೆಗೇ ಬಹು ಹಿಂದೆ ನಾನು ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಬಗೆಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಭಾವನೆಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅಳಿಸಿಹೋಗಿದ್ದವು. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ವಾತಾವರಣ ನನ್ನನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಅಂತೂ ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಕಳೆದುವು. ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಗ್ರಹಣ ಕಳೆದಂತಾಯಿತು. ಎಂದಿನ ಉತ್ಸಾಹದಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೋದ ವರ್ಷ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದ ನನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ಅನುಭವಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ, ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಜೀವನದ ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ವರ್ಷದ ಪ್ರಥಮಭಾಗ ಕಳೆಯುತ್ತಾ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಜೀವನ ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಎಂದಿಗಿಂತ ರಸಪೂರ್ಣ

ವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿದೆ. ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿದೇಸೆಯು ಸತ್ಯವಾಗಿಯೂ ಬಹಳ ಸುಂದರ ಮತ್ತು ಪವಿತ್ರತಮವಾದುದು.

ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ನಿತ್ಯಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹಳಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಪರಿವರ್ತನವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಹಲವಾರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳ ಫಲವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿಗುಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಲುಗಲ್ಲದ ಬಾಲಕರು, ನಮ್ಮ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಗೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆ ಕಾಣುವ ಹಲವಾರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಬಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಈ ಬದಲಿಸಿರುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡು 'ಎಂದಿನ' ಚೈತನ್ಯದಿಂದ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಈ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳೆಲ್ಲದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ತರಗತಿಗಳು ಪ್ರಾತಃಕಾಲ 10-30ಕ್ಕೆ ಆರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದು ನನಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಂದಿನಂತೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಬಂದವನೇ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ತರಗತಿಯ ಒಳಹೊಕ್ಕು. ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಆಗಲೇ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಹಾಜರಾತಿಯನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನಾನು ಎಂದಿನಂತೆ ನನ್ನ ಜಾಗದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದೆ. ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ನನ್ನನ್ನು ದುರುಗುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡೇ ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನನಗೆ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. “ಕೇವಲ ಎರಡು ಮೂರು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳು ತಡವಾಗಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಪಾಪಮಾಡಿದಂತೆಯೇ ನನ್ನನ್ನೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೀಗೆ ಏಕೆ ನೋಡಬೇಕು?” ಎಂದುಕೊಂಡೇ ನನ್ನ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತೆ. ಆದರೆ ಎರಡು ಮೂರು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ನಾನು ಕಂಡದ್ದೇನು? ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ತರಗತಿಯಿಂದ ನಿಷ್ಕ್ರಮಿಸಿದರು. ಹುಡುಗರೂ ಎದ್ದು ಹೊರಗೆಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಹುಡುಗರೆಲ್ಲರ ಭಾವನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನು ಕೇವಲ ಹಾಜರಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಬಂದವನಾಗಿದ್ದೆ. ಕೇವಲ ತಪ್ಪು ಎಣಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ನಾನು ಆ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲುಕಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೆ. ನನಗೆ ಬಹಳ ಖೇದವೂ ನಾಚಿಕೆಯೂ ಉಂಟಾದವು. ತತ್ಕ್ಷಣ ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ಓಡಿದೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ನಾನು ತಡವಾದುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿ ಹೇಳಿ ನನ್ನ ತಪ್ಪನ್ನು

ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನವಾಗಿ ನನ್ನೊಡನೆ ಕೆಲಹೊತ್ತು ಮಾತನಾಡಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ನನಗೆ ಜಗತ್ತನ್ನೇ ಜಯಿಸಿದಷ್ಟು ಹರ್ಷವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ನಮ್ಮ ಭೌತಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಸಂಘವೂ ತನ್ನ ಕಾರ್ಯಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನವೋದಯ ಚೈತನ್ಯದಿಂದ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಸಂಘವು ಚುನಾವಣೆಗಳಿಂದ ದೂರವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕೊಂಡೇ ಕೆಲಸಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹಸುರಿನಿಂದ ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ಒಂದೇ ಕುಟುಂಬದಂತೆ ಇದ್ದ ನಮ್ಮ ತರಗತಿಯ ಹುಡುಗರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಪದವೀಧರರು ಬಂದು ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಒಮ್ಮೆ ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ನಿರ್ಜೀವವಾಗಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇಂದು ನನ್ನ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯಕ್ಷ ದೇವಾಲಯ. ನನ್ನ ಗುರುಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ನನಗೆ ದೈವ ಸಮಾನ. ಅವರ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಮಾತುಗಳೂ ಆಣೆಮುತ್ತುಗಳು. ಈ ವರ್ಷ ತನ್ನ “ಶತಮಾನೋತ್ಸವ” ವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಈ ಪವಿತ್ರ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡುವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಸುಕೃತ.

ಕೇವಲ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜನ್ನು ಟೀಕಿಸಬಯಸುವವರಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ದಿಷ್ಟೇ ಉತ್ತರ: ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಕ್ರೂರಹಿತ

ದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೂ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರುಗಳೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಕೊಂಡು ನರಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ತನ್ನ ಪವಿತ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿಯ ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿದ ಹಲವಾರು ಜನ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಖ್ಯಾತಿಯನ್ನೂ ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ನಮ್ಮ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನವನ್ನವಲಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಶ್ರೀ ಕೃಷ್ಣನು ತಾನು ಬಾಲಕನಾಗಿರುವಾಗ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ತನ್ನ ಮಾವ ಕಂಸನ ಆಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದಾಗ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರೇಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಅವರವರ ಮನೋಭಿಲಾಷೆ ಮತ್ತು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವಗಳಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ರೂಪಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಹಾಗೆ ಭಾಸವಾಯಿತಂತೆ; ಯೋಗಿಗಳ ನಿಷ್ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತ ಚಕ್ಷುಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಶ್ವರೂಪದರ್ಶನವೇ ಆಯಿತಂತೆ. ಅಂತೆಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ನಿಜವಾದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಅರಿವಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂತಹ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಮಾಡುವ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಕೃತಜ್ಞ. ನನ್ನ ಮಾತೃ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸಕಲ ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸಲಿ.

ಆರ್. ಜಯರಾಂ
ಸೆಕೆಂಡ್ ಆನರ್ಸ್ (ಫಿನ್ಯಾನ್ಸ್.)

♦ ♦ ♦

MY LIFE IN CENTRAL COLLEGE

WIDE WAS THE GATE AND BROAD WAS THE road before me. As I stood there ready to enter through the former and walk along the latter, I felt like a caterpillar about to enter its cocoon. A thousand emotions and feelings swirled within my heart. A thousand question marks loomed before my eyes. And what lay behind that gate was not a mere college, but a new world, a new life and a dream. Wiping away the oily perspiration from my face, wetting my lips and taking up every ounce of my courage, I made my grand entry. So I was born—that is as far as the Central College was concerned.

The impression created by the College that day will never be erased out of my mind. The long line of deep red buildings may gladden the heart of a communist; but it filled me with dread. The only way to tame these monstrous-looking mansions was to get acquainted with them. So I set out to explore my new college. I had been informed that the first in the row was the Department of Physics. But I was shocked to see how unimaginably small the first block was. A big crowd of students sat there chatting and laughing

in a most vociferous manner inside that dingy den filled with thick curling smoke. No wonder, I thought, that there was no more than a handful of notable physicists in our country. But, soon I realized my mistake. After all, it was only the College Canteen! Relieved of my horror, I marched on and came to the 'real' Physics Department. Here was I destined to spend most of my time for the next three years. Here would I be transmuted (so I hoped) into a Newton or an Einstein. Making sure that nobody was looking, I made a low bow to that Brontosaur of a building.

Other sections of the College proved to be even more fantastic. Students, huddled on sofas in the reading room snored like dragons with terrifying intensities. That was the Central Block with the clock-tower. The pungent smell of vapours gushing out of the department of chemistry forced me to close my nose and run for my life. But, suddenly I stopped alarmed by the eerie noises I could hear. It was a cacophonous combination of shrill shrieks, and continuous chattering. The voices that created this

strange disturbance were unmistakably feminine. Then I remembered : there was co-education in our College, and this was where the ladies were kept imprisoned, that is to say, where they stayed in the off hours. Next to the realm of literature, ladies and mathematics was the half-finished building which housed the natural sciences. That marked the end of our little Universe.

But, before long, what had appeared to be bizarre at the first instance was no more so. Or, perhaps, what the Cheshire cat pointed out to Alice was true in my case also : I might have been a mad man in a mad world. However, there was no time to think of all such philosophy as work had started and was gathering speed. Mornings used to start at the Zoological end of our Universe—that is in the Department of Zoology. Here, some of my class-mates revealed their genius though the unappreciative dubbed them as mischievous. They used to throw pieces of chalk, paper-balls or whatever they could lay their hands upon into the whirling blades of the ceiling-fans. Great uproar followed whenever the misguided missile hit some meek, unsuspecting student. After the first hour was over, we had to plod our weary way to the Mathematics block. Thereafter, again a quick run to the antipode—the Physics Department. By the time we reached the last class for the day, I always felt like an overloaded lorry—tired and sleepy, having carried my not-so-light corporeal frame for so long a time and over so large an area. As I listened to the teacher with great effort, his voice would often trail off to some distant planet, the world around me would slowly melt, the heavy eyelids would collapse and I would pass

off into a heavenly sleep. Once when I was enjoying a pleasant dream like that, I was rudely awakened by the harsh shout of the teacher. “What do you think this is ? A Legislative Assembly to doze off whenever you please ?”, he was thundering. What an insult to Democracy ! And to our great Legislators who with the genius bestowed by the Master and votes given by the multitude shape our future and steer us to Utopia ! Before I could tell him so, my eyes had closed and I was again fast asleep.

Seconds flew, minutes rolled on and the sand in the hour-glass ran fast all through that first year. The chequered chess-board of days and nights was filled with excitement and eager expectation. Marching across it, I never could feel the passage of Time. A new teacher today ; a new subject tomorrow ; birth of a new acquaintance each day. Life seemed to be an Aurora with all its dazzling colours and feverish activity. But we remained half-strangers to the college—all along.

The second year found us more sedate and serious. The thought of far-off examination had lifted up the veil of dreams. I could now discern faintly a pattern in our curriculum. Great effort was necessary to keep in step with the teachers hurrying across the syllabus and to fill the gaps they left in jumping from chapter to chapter. Working with a monotonous regularity, how I envied our tower-clock which took life so leisurely, sometimes going into long lulls of sleep ; And the year would have passed off absolutely uneventful, had it not been for “the Great Strike”.

It started as a breeze, grew into a whirlwind and stopped abruptly, of course

not without hitting its mark, the postponement of the examinations. The College was filled with handbills and placards. Leaders rose like mushrooms. Ciceros sprang up from nowhere and made inspiring speeches, in spite of the tricks grammar played on them. One leader taught his followers to sing to tune the slogan, "Postpone exams! Postpone Exams!". Subscriptions were collected to facilitate the fight for the great cause and a telegram was sent to the Vice-Chancellor demanding an immediate postponement of examinations which caused a decrease in the fund by a rupee and a half. When one of the teachers came to know of this, he summoned some of the leaders and advised them "My boys, stop wasting good money like that! A rupee and a half! My God, you would have eaten twenty-four Idlis for that money!" But the students failed to see the wisdom of that advice. After all, what ran in their veins was boiling quick-silver!

In spite of this hurly-burly, classes continued as usual for us, the students of Physics Honours. However, we were in constant dread that we might suffer the fate of Lavoisier. Our fear was not entirely baseless. We had heard a leader with revolutionary ideas saying, "Friends! Let us go to the Maharani's College. I know our sisters are too shy and modest to join our procession. But, we shall beg them to give us their bangles. And, Friends, we shall present those bangles to the lily-livered, chicken-hearted squirrel-nerved book-worms who are still continuing to attend classes". Of course, we were the 'book-worms' he was referring to. But by the mercy of Minerva, secure in the salubrious second floor of our department, my friends and I escaped

that nightmare, "the Operation Bangles".

The third year stepped in and the world suddenly shrank. My life was confined now entirely to the Physics Department. From morning till evening, I had to serve the great Monarch of the Sciences. The Monarch never parted from his Queen Mathematics who was, indeed, a very hard-to-please lady. As the year approached its end all this seriousness gave way to an unlimited gaiety such as I had never enjoyed in all the three years. The occasion was the Anniversary of the College and the Exhibition.

The atmosphere was full of enthusiasm and energy, with an inexpressible intoxication. Perhaps it was this very feeling that distorted itself slightly, in some of us, into a desire to play practical jokes on our friends acting as volunteers in other sections of the Exhibition. In one of the sections a few friends of mine and I came across a collection of skeletons, a perpetual grin stamped on each skull. I wonder whether they were all grinning at the well-dressed volunteer (a bit too well-dressed indeed) who apparently believed himself to be another Darwin—minus beard and gave full expression to that belief, whenever possible. I gave a volunteer a slip of paper on which I had written the words "Egelloc Lartnec" and asked him if he would be kind enough to tell me all about it.

"Egelloc Lartnec, Egelloc Lartnec!" he muttered to himself, cleared his throat impressively and said, "Well, you know, ours is a great subject, but a very, very difficult subject. Egelloc Lartnec is an example of the tough Latin terms we use.

Nevertheless, even if I told you anything about Egelloc Lartnec, I am afraid you won't be able to understand much." And he gave me a big patronizing smile. I thanked him profusely and before coming away, asked him kindly to read these words backwards. Next day, when we again visited that department, our young man was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps by that time he had realized that "Egelloc Lartnec" was nothing but "Central College" written in the reverse order !

But I remember perfectly well an incident in which I was myself the victim. He was an old gentleman, dressed quite ordinarily in the typical South Indian style. As I explained to him an experiment with all earnestness, he stood watching me with a broad smile on his lips. When I finished, he began to pour forth a volley of questions, one after the other. Beads of perspiration came out on my forehead as I tried in vain to answer those questions and to avoid betraying my ignorance. Finally he gave a hearty laugh at my plight and said "Now, now, young man, stop looking like a fish about to be fried ! Don't go on swallowing Physics without chewing it and learning to use your head !" Afterwards I came to know from one of my teachers that this 'old gentleman' was a retired Professor of Physics who had worked in our own college. I took his advice, of course with open arms. But

one thing remains still a mystery to me : the appearance of a fish about to be fried !

What I have written so far does not constitute a thousandth part of my life in this College. A few incidents I have tried to picture, a few thoughts I have tried to express, with how much success, I do not know. After all, language is like the Great Barrier Reef. Beautiful no doubt. But, many times, thoughts, feelings and emotions dash against it and are shattered into smithereens. But, one thing : I am no more a stranger to this College. Hitler used to say that he felt he was a part of the Party and the Party a part of him. After all these years of my life in this College, I too feel that I am a part of the College and the College a part of me. That feeling, I am sure, will never die away.

I know definitely that many happy moments of my life will be found in these years I have spent here. Many times, again and again, I have asked myself this question : Shall I be proud of my college ? Today, I know the answer. For ever, all through my life, I shall remain proud of this College. But, another question haunts me day and night which Time and Time alone can answer. It is this : Will the College be proud of me ?

C. V. VISHVESHWARA

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CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION, BANGALORE
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE COLLEGE, 1958

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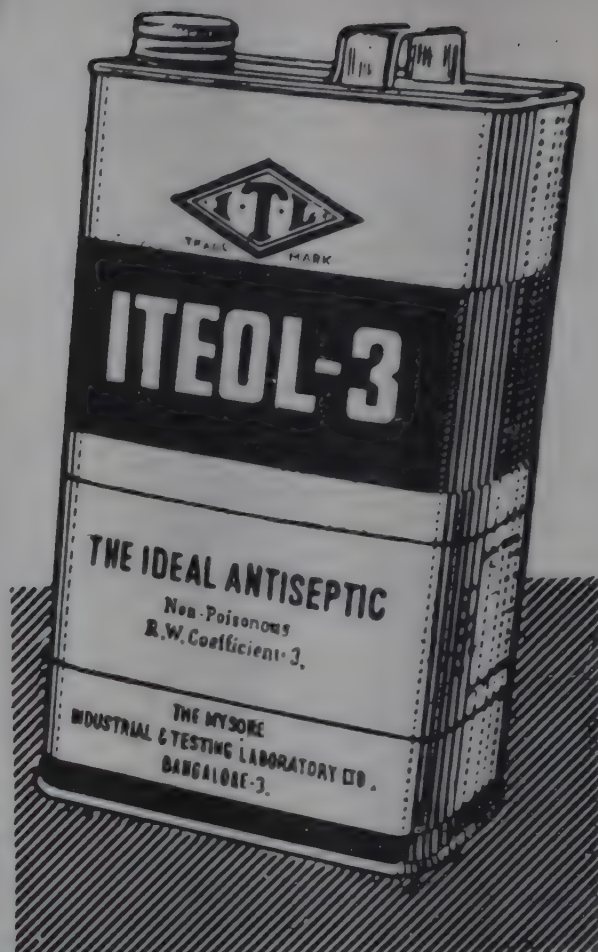
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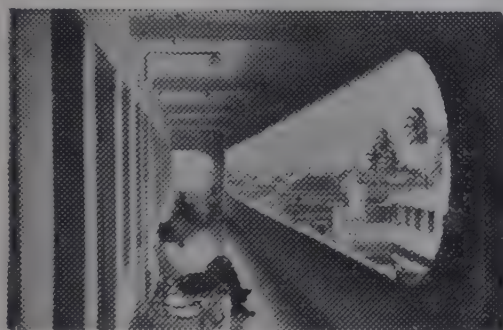
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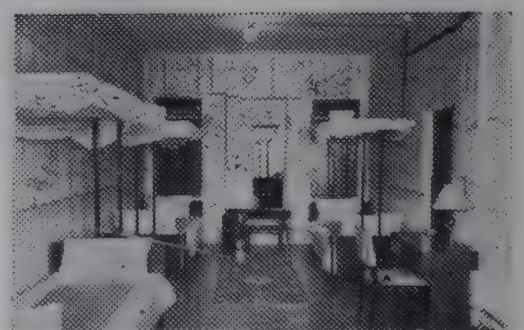
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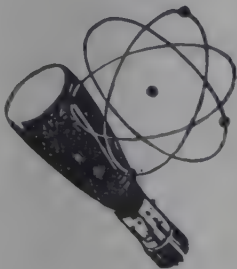
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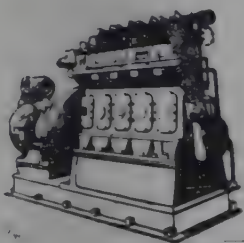
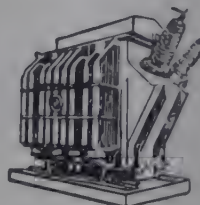
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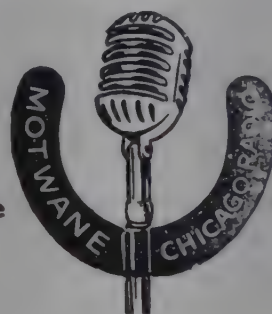


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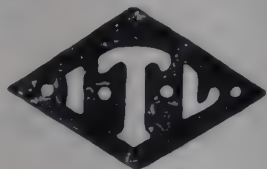
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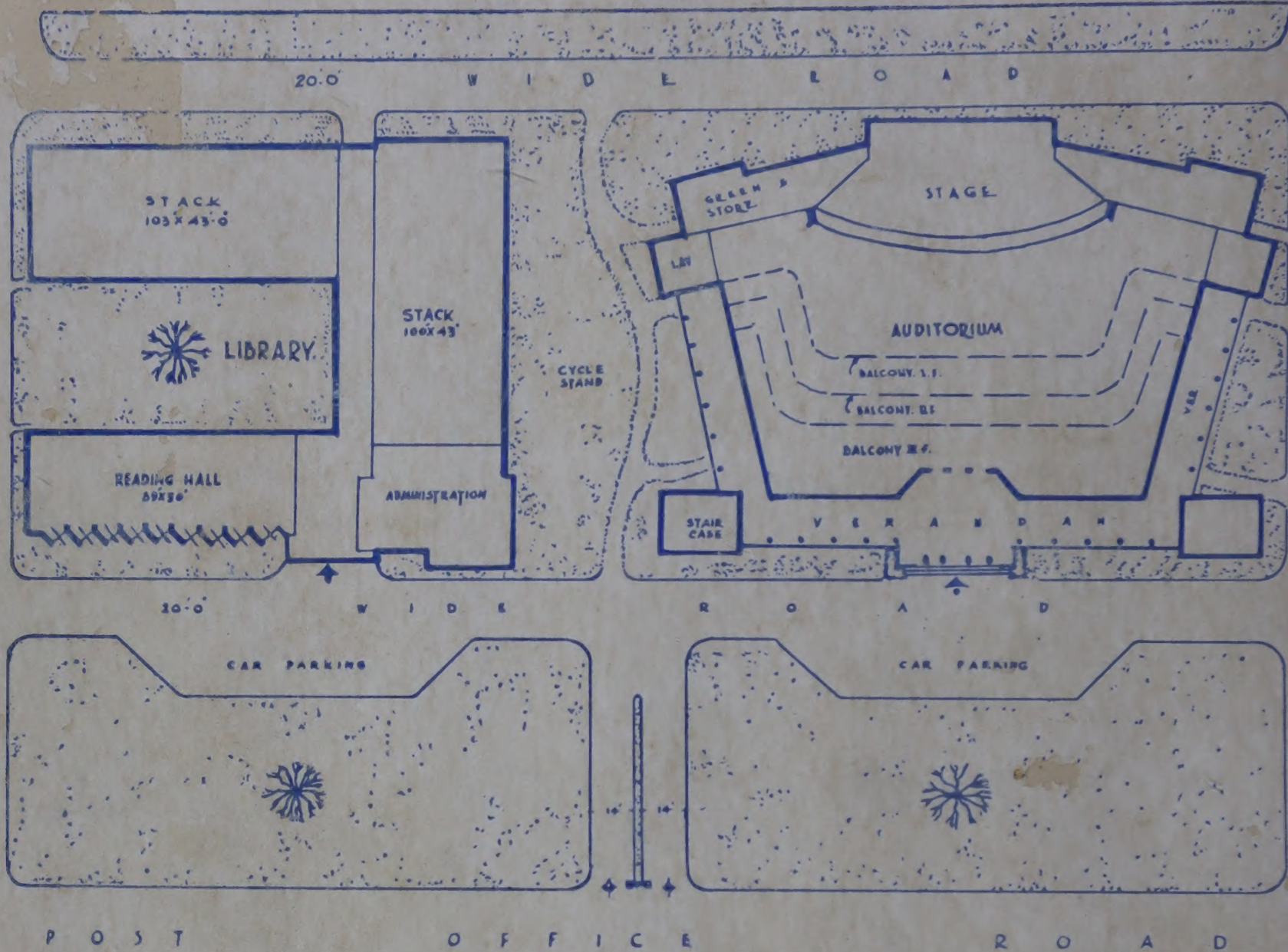
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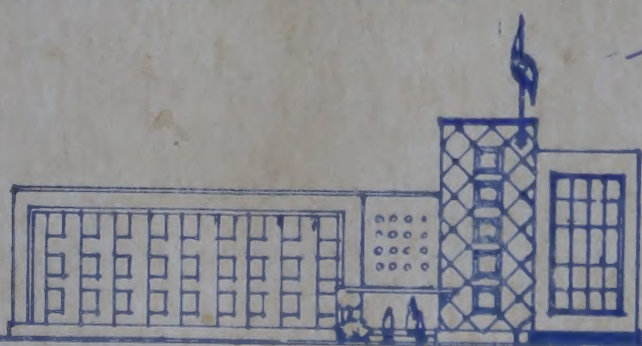
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